Hafa Adai!

Two men to plead guilty to seven theft cases. PAGE 2
Suspect identified in recent burglary incident. PAGE 7

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IPI pays $15M license fee

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» CCC demands $502K more, based on CPI adjustment

In addition to the $15 million that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC was required to pay as its annual casino license fee, it was also made to pay $502,000 more, based on an adjusted consumer price index, as required by law.

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero also disclosed yesterday that he was informed by their staff that IPI sent the $15 million payment for its annual exclusive casino license fee via wire transfer.

Deleon Guerrero

The deadline to pay the fee was Monday, Aug. 12.

Deleon Guerrero said that his office informed IPI last week about the additional $502,000 it has to pay on top of the $15 million. As of yes-

See IPI on Page 4

Still verifying IPI payment

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance and the administration Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted yesterday that they are aware that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC completed a wire transfer to pay the casino license renewal fee.

Both Finance and the Torres administration confirmed that they were aware of a wire transfer made to the CNMI government by IPI for their annual $15-million casino license renewal fees; however, both did not immediately respond to the question of how much was transferred.

"[Finance] is aware a wire transfer has been made by

See PAYMENT on Page 4

Torres expects cannabis bill amendment this week

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is expecting the long-awaited cannabis bill amendment to arrive at his desk this week after the Legislature passed the bill last Aug. 2.

Torres noted in an interview yesterday that, as of publication, Rep. John Paul Sablan's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-13 has yet to land on his desk. But after reportedly consulting the Office of the Attorney General on Monday, Torres noted that he will be receiving the bill for review this week.

"…I just spoke to the attorney general [Monday] and I am confident that,

See TORRES on Page 4

WAITING FOR FISH TO BITE
A fisherman patiently waits for his catch near the shore at Laulau Beach.
BEA CABRERA

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the CNMI enact a law to allow concealed carry?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
It defies belief but Tinian has had no bakery until April this year. Now it has Coffee & Bread.
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The administration will be denying green cards to many migrants who use public assistance.
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LIFE & STYLE
Nine women are accusing opera legend Placido Domingo of sexual harassment.
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Local

Two men to plead guilty to seven theft cases

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two men who allegedly burglarized seven business establishments on island will plead guilty to all the criminal charges against them.

Steven Hasugulgam, 23, and his co-defendant, Irwin Duane Teregeyo, 19, are charged with multiple counts of burglary and theft for allegedly burglarizing seven business establishments back in 2018, including the I Love Saipan pop-up shop, True Value Hardware Store, Surf Club restaurant, Bank of Saipan, the Shell gas station in Susupe, Pena House Boutique, and Blue-Sky Supermarket.

During a status conference yesterday, Hasugulgam's lawyer, Oliver Manglona, and Teregeyo's lawyer, Kimberly King-Hinds, informed the court that both men are ready for a global change of plea agreement, "global" meaning they would change their plea for all the cases against them.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo ordered both men to return for their change of plea hearing on Oct. 1 at 1:30pm.

Hasugulgam was charged with burglarizing all seven establishments while Teregeyo was charged with participating in five of the seven burglaries.

According to court information, Hasugulgam and Teregeyo burglarized the I Love Saipan pop-up shop, Blue Sky Supermarket, True Value Hardware store, Pena House Boutique, and Surf Club together.

Hasugulgam, however, allegedly burglarized the Shell gas station in Susupe and the Bank of Saipan in Chalan Kanoa on his own.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, both Hasugulgam and Teregeyo entered pleas of not guilty to all counts before Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja back in March.

Hasugulgam and Teregeyo were arrested when police received a call about a burglary and theft incident at True Value Hardware on Beach Road, Garapan and at I Love Saipan pop-up store on Middle Road in Chalan Laulau on Dec. 27, 2018. The other burglaries were uncovered later while the two were incarcerated.

Police concluded that True Value Hardware and I Love Saipan were robbed by the same suspects after both surveillance footage from the establishments showed two suspects, one with a tattoed left forearm, who was later identified as Hasugulgam.

Hasugulgam later told police that burglarizing both stores were Teregeyo's idea.

Tanapag center revives after-school program

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Youth Services, in collaboration with Precinct 2 Rep. Shiela Babauta (Ind-Saipan), has revitalized an after-school program at the Tanapag Youth Center.

Last year, the center was open only three times a week from 3pm to 5pm. Babauta's goal is to see the center open for more days and hours. She is working with DYS to keep the center open Monday to Friday from 3pm to 5:30pm.

Babauta thanked the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs and DYS for making this possible after both agencies allowed her office to adopt the after-school program of the Tanapag Youth Center.

However, with the ongoing austerity measures, she will be looking at other options to keep the center open on "austerity Fridays"—which falls on "payday Fridays."

She said the after-school program will prioritize helping students with their homework. She is also planning on creating a "Big Brother, Big Sister" chapter at the center—a mentorship program for the after-school program participants, in which they can turn to someone for advice on life and other concerns.

"I always turned to my older siblings for advice, and that's what the Big Brother, Big Sister chapter focuses on, and I would like to see that happen [at the center]," she said.

Babauta invites the community to support the after-school program as her office is currently looking for volunteers to help out. By the time the Public School System opens classes in September, she hopes the after-school program will already have a good number of volunteers.

Carter increases EEMC's funding ceiling by $320,000

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter granted yesterday the U.S. government's request to increase by $320,000 the ceiling for the Engineering and Environmental Management Company that is tasked to oversee some stalled Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects.

That means the EEMC's funding ceiling is now $1.5 million.

The U.S. government, through the U.S. Department of Justice, informed the court in a status hearing yesterday that raising the funding ceiling for EEMC's activities does not mean an authorization to pay the EEMC

The EEMC will first submit invoices to the court after the activities are completed and the parties may advise the court whether the invoiced costs should be paid, said Bradley R. O'Brien, senior attorney of the DOJ's Environmental Enforcement Section

O'Brien said EEMC's task order relates to performing Stipulated Order No. 2 activities such as construction management and oversight, administration, and assisting CUC with projects.

SO2 refers to court-mandated CUC projects that focus on oil issues and also apply to oil spills and remediation of contaminated power plants.

O'Brien said the amended task order would increase the funding ceiling for these activities by $220,000 and earmark these funds to be paid by grant funding.

He said the additional $220,000 is expected to fund these activities through Aug. 31, 2020.

O'Brien said the task order also relates to EEM's activities such as participating before the court in telephone conferences and status conferences.

He said the amended task order would increase the funding ceiling for these activities by $100,000 and earmark these funds to be paid by court registry funds.

O'Brien said the additional $100,000 is expected to fund these activities through Aug. 31, 2020.

Gilbane Federal, a California-based construction company, is CUC's EEMC until Feb. 5, 2021. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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DCAA outlines changes to programs and new ones

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has lined up a series of changes that will affect in-depth personal care, promote sports and a healthy lifestyle, higher efficiencies in providing services to the public, and possible modern use of historical sites.

DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter outlined these upcoming changes within his department as the guest speaker of the Rotary Club of Saipan during the group's weekly meeting yesterday at the Giovanni's at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The first of several DCCA rollouts is the CNMI Respite Services Program, a homebound care service that will start in November this year.

"DCCA is now responsible for [this] program. …It's a new program that provides temporary breaks through volunteers to family members who take care 24/7 of a senior in the family that has special needs or who is bedridden.

"…If you are a family member who takes care of somebody, we can go in and relieve you on a scheduled basis and provide quality assistance and activities for the person being cared for," he said.

DCCA is now training volunteers to go to homes as respite care takers. "Statistics show that this kind of care provides better outcome for the people being taken cared of," Hunter said. "This program also grants us some monitoring of these persons who are bedridden who don't leave the house and look at their environment and direct them to other services."

Second is the Electronics Benefits System of the Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps. Hunter said this plan has been two years in the making and they got approval from the federal level after testing the system last year.

The Electronic Benefits System will provide food stamp clients with an electronic benefits transfer card that is very similar to a credit card.

BEA CABRERA
Rotary Club of Saipan president Marcia Ayuyu listens intently as Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter presented updates from his office at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting held yesterday at Giovanni's Restaurant of Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

Right now, when the local Nutrition Assistance Program hands out food benefits every month, "we hand out stacks of printed coupons," Hunter said. "If I were to receive these, I have to sign this coupon, the retailer has to receive an identification card and review it, which overall is a big difficult process…

"With the EBT system, all the benefits are uploaded in the card. …People don't have to come in as we are doing everything electronically," he added.

DCCA is looking at January 2020 to transition to the EBT system.

Third is the DCCA Sports and Recreation Program, which Hunter calls a start-up program for DCAA once again. About seven or eight years ago, there was a law that transferred some of these activities to the Northern Marianas Sports Association, including the physical gym.

"DCCA still maintained the programs and staff on Rota and we still handle most of the community sports activities on Saipan, which includes scheduling of baseball games, fixing the courts on occasion, and managing 'memorandum of agreements' for properties we have to facilitate, like the soccer training field in Koblerville and northern sports facility going up in Tanapag," he said.

"We still have our hands in the sports world outside of the gym but we are getting a little more of that this year by bringing that into a full DCAA program," he added.

Fourth, under DCCA is the Historic Preservation Office, which deals with all things historic in the Northern Mariana Islands, including giving out permits for the use of these sites.

"HPO is on the cusp of receiving about a $5-million grant and this will cover the renovations of their office and the development of historic sites such as cleaning, maintaining, and putting up signs," Hunter said.

"One of the things that we are excited about is the renovation of the lighthouse. We have yet to meet with the Department of Public Lands this week, hoping that when they learn that we have these funds coming, they will turn that property over to us. We want to turn that into a gallery… we will know about that grant in December," Hunter added.

2 of 3 in meth case plead not guilty; are released

Two of three suspects indicted in federal court have pleaded not guilty to the allegations that they conspired to possess over 50 grams of methamphetamine, with the intent to sell it.

At a hearing last Monday afternoon, Vince Koki Leon Guerrero and Evelyn Chon Tydingco pleaded not guilty to the indictment charging them with one count of conspiracy to possess methamphetamine with the intent to distribute.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy accepted the not guilty plea and set the jury trial for Oct. 15, 2019.

Kennedy denied the U.S. government's motion to detain the two pending trial and ordered the release of Leon Guerrero and Tydingco, with some conditions.

Leon Guerrero and Tydingco appeared with court-appointed counsel, Steven P. Pixley and David G. Banes, respectively. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

The prosecution and defense counsel Mark B. Hanson agreed to put off the initial appearance hearing of the third defendant, Elaine Francisco Demei, to between Aug. 19 and 23.

According to the indictment, the three conspired, along with other persons, to possess over 50 grams of methamphetamine between Feb. 15 and 21, 2018, with the intent to distribute. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Man who brought gun to bar gets year in prison

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who brought a gun to a bar pleaded guilty to the charges against him and was sentenced to one year in prison.

Francisco A. Ada, 56, pleaded guilty yesterday to possession of a firearm in a gun-free zone and was sentenced to one-year imprisonment, all suspended.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo placed Ada under six months of supervised probation starting yesterday.

He also ordered Ada to pay a fine of $1,000, court assessment fees, probation service fees, and to serve 100 hours of community service.

The court waived the charge of possession of a firearm while under the influence of alcohol, pursuant to Ada's plea agreement.

Ada's gun, although still in the possession of the Department of Public Safety, will be returned to him once he completes his probation, according to Govendo.

Ada was arrested in August 2017 after he was caught in possession of a gun at the Pacific Islands Club Seaside Bar.

CHCC program helps people manage hypertension

Over half of adults in the CNMI have hypertension—or high blood pressure—and a large number aren't even aware of it, according to a 2016 report by the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

With this in mind, the CHCC has created a hypertension self-management program in collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. The program, called the ASTHO Hypertension Identification Control Program, aims to help people manage and control their hypertension through lifestyle changes.

The program worked with a group of 20 individuals over three months, with project interns working as peer coaches. The individuals were referred by physicians at the CHCC Family Care Clinic after meeting certain criteria:

1. Newly established primary care at the FCC.

2. Meet the hypertension pre-diagnosis guidelines.

3. Are not on any hypertension medication or management plan.

Once enrolled, participants received blood pressure cuffs, a three-month supply of hypertension medication, a dietary plan, a pair of running shoes, and coverage for an initial and follow-up doctor's visit. They also participated in weekly calls with peer coaches to discuss their progress and the challenges they faced in adhering to their plan.

The project has received positive feedback from participants, who expressed that the lifestyle change tools have motivated them to take active steps to combat their hypertension. In particular, participants reported that the new running shoes have motivated them to participate in regular physical activity such as walking, jogging, and Zumba.

As a pilot program, the goal of the ASTHO Hypertension Identification Control Program is to examine whether these strategies are effective in helping patients manage a new hypertension diagnosis, which will help the CHCC evaluate the potential effectiveness of another hypertension management program in the future.

The ASTHO Hypertension Identification Control Project is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Million Hearts Initiative.

Program capacity has been reached, and no more applicants are being accepted as of now. If you may be interested in participating in a similar program in future, let your provider know so that you can be considered when potential funding becomes available. ***(PR)***

Senate confirms Villagomez to CPA board

Former senator Thomas Kiyu Villagomez is returning to the Commonwealth Ports Authority board after the Senate confirmed his appointment last Friday.

Villagomez has been a member of the CPA board for about 10 years. "I've been with the CPA board since 2008. There was a gap but I got re-nominated, so I am back [to the CPA board], he told *Saipan Tribune* last week. "I have been out for a while because of the gap…and the expiration of my last term."

His new term on the board would last only two years. "… We got a lot of stuff going on at CPA and I am glad that I will be coming back and working under the helm of the chairwoman," referring to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds.

Among the projects that Villagomez has identified as priorities include finalizing the airport concession agreement.

"One of the major concerns include the expansion of the airport," he added. "Our consultant, I believe, has concluded their final presentation and I was available to participate for that presentation. This issue will be closed pretty soon, so I need to get back and get an update," he said.

The Saipan, Rota, and Tinian seaports will also remain on his to-do list as a CPA board member.

Villagomez was first appointed to the CPA board in 2008 by former governor Benigno R. Fitial, was reappointed by the late governor Eloy S. Inos in 2013, and by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in 2017. Villagomez said he looks forward to his fourth term on the CPA board. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

IPI

From Page 1

terday, he has no information whether IPI paid the $502,000 on top of the $15 million, or if they have their own calculation of the CPI adjustment.

"If they overshoot, I'm sure next year they can credit it. If they undershoot, then they have to catch up," he said.

As of yesterday, Deleon Guerrero said they are verifying the information that IPI indeed made the $15 million license fee payment.

He said payment was reportedly made, not at CCC but at the Revenue and Tax's Treasury.

"I'm checking out for actual confirmation. I want to see the actual deposit…," he said, adding that he is not sure if the Department of Finance can release that information. "Whatever tax information you give Finance is protected by law," he pointed out.

If IPI fails to pay the annual license fee by the deadline, Deleon Guerrero explained that the CCC is procedurally responsible to ensure that IPI complies with its contractual agreement.

Procedurally, if the CCC feels that IPI has violated that agreement, then an enforcement case will swing into action, he said. He said they will then send investigators to interview the principal or the parties involved.

"Then once we get…the facts, we separate rumors from reality. We look at the law. We look at the regulations. We look at the casino license agreement. We look what happened, what's required," he said.

The CCC will then have their investigators determine the violation and they sit with their staff and go over the matter with their legal counsel.

"If we think that there is an obvious violation—either the license agreement or violations of Commonwealth law or the casino regulation violation—we will issue a complaint," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said the licensee—in this case IPI—then has 15 days to respond to correct the complaint.

He said the law imposes criminal penalty of $10,000 to $100,000 for a criminal offense, and if it is willful violation, three years of imprisonment or both.

Otherwise, if it is just purely a civil issue, CCC can impose fines. Deleon Guerrero said their maximum penalty is up to $50,000 per violation.

Deleon Guerrero said that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is on top of these things as he is very involved in making sure that IPI honors its obligations and that CCC is working with the Office of the Attorney General and the Governor's Office on this.

On the adjustment issue, Deleon Guerrero said that, based on Public Law 18-56, the exclusive casino license fee is $15 million a year, and on that fifth year of operation, the annual license fee would be adjusted based on the consumer price index, as provided for by the Department of Commerce.

He said they have been working with Commerce since 2014 to pin down what was the CPI since the third quarter of 2014, all the way to the current CPI.

He said they finally got the CPI in the full quarter of 2018 and, based on that, it is their belief that the CPI index increases the fee by $502,000.

He said they came up with the amount based on the CPI index provided by the Department of Commerce last week. The CPI factors include unemployment, housing, and other criteria.

"We got a little bit of problem because we have issues of transportation. We have issues of typhoon price freeze. We have a couple of issues that made it a little bit more complicated for Commerce to put together," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said they did not question Commerce's numbers and just took whatever they gave them. "They are the statistical department," he pointed out.

Deleon Guerrero said they showed their calculation to IPI to show how much more they need to pay.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CHamoru commission meetings set

The Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2109, at 4:30pm at the Garden House, Plaza de Espana in Hagåtña. A work session will also be held on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019, from 12:30pm to 3pm, at the same venue.

For more information, contact Kumisión chair/Gé'helo' Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/Sikritåria Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. ***(PR)***

Open house at Saipan airport

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will be holding an open house meeting on Aug. 21, 2019, from 6pm to 8pm, at the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Building located at 1 Fadang at the Saipan airport. The open house will discuss the ongoing airport master plan study. The consultant team will also be available to answer questions.

Should you require additional information, contact Wendi L. Prater, executive assistant/project manager, or Saipan airport manager William Camacho at (670) 237-6500. ***(PR)***

PAYMENT

From Page 1

[IPI] and will verify once the transfer process is completed. International wire transactions usually take 23-48 hours to process. Once verified, [Finance] will provide notice to the Commonwealth Casino Commission and the Office of the Attorney General," Finance Secretary David Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The Torres administration, which gave a similar response, noted that it would be further coordinating with the OAG and the CCC regarding the company's compliance with the casino license agreement.

Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) noted yesterday morning, that an anonymous individual with knowledge of the matter told his office that IPI only paid $5.5 million as of 8:30am yesterday. This could not be independently verified by *Saipan Tribune*.

Comments on the matter from both the Finance department and Torres administration were received at about 5pm yesterday.

According to Atalig and Commonwealth Lottery Commission chair Mark Rabauliman, CCC would be the enforcing agency relating to the annual fee. Rabauliman clarified that his commission merely handles the contract between the CNMI government and IPI.

According to the CLA, Section 175-10.1-675 relating to the license suspension or revocation, the casino gaming licensee is bound by the contract to comply with all the terms and conditions of the casino license. Any violation of its requirements shall be considered a breach of contract.

The agreement further defines a breach of contract as "failure to pay any amount due and payable hereunder upon the date when such payment is due," among other things. This means that IPI cannot be delayed in its payments to the CNMI government, including the annual casino license renewal fee, and that it has to be paid in full.

TORRES

From Page 1

based on the attorney general, I should be receiving the [cannabis adjustment] bill this week," he said.

Torres said he has yet to look at the bill but noted that he is looking forward to enacting the legislation.

"…If things go well, I will be signing it probably [next] Monday," he said, adding that his office will be inviting both chambers of the Legislature and the members of the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission before he enacts the legislation.

"…I hope that we can move forward with this legislation… and start promulgating rules and regulations and get our feet off the ground," he said.

The bill, when signed, gives the cannabis commissioners—Matt Deleon Guerrero, Nadine Deleon Guerrero, Valentino Taisakan, Lawrence Duponcheel, and Thomas Songsong—six months to come up with regulations for the industry.

The commission representatives consist of three representing Saipan and one each for Rota and Tinian.

According to author Sablan, the clock starts ticking for the cannabis commission once they formally convene for the first time.

"…But nothing stops the commission from promulgating the rules before six months," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous interview, while adding that he prefers if the commissioners "take their time" when coming up with the new regulations.

From left to right, Japan Environmental Solutions LLC director Kyosei Nozawa, CNMI Solid Waste & Recycle Management executive adviser Jun Kitaoka, Koror's Solid Waste Management Office manager Selby Etibek, Koror state government consultant Katsuo Fuji, and Office of Planning Development director Kodep Ogumoro. Fuji is discussing the recycling law in Palau at the Governor's Office conference room. MARC A. VENUS

CNMI hopes to learn from Palau's solid waste initiatives

By MARC VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI hopes to get some ideas from Palau on how to handle solid waste and recycling ideas that could be implemented locally. Toward this end, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres met with Koror State Gov. Franco Gibbons yesterday to talk about solid waste management and how they do it in Koror.

In a move to bring together all government agencies and private leaders who will play a large role in this initiative, yesterday's meeting at the Office of the Governor also had the participation of Japan Environmental Solutions LLC director Kyosei Nozawa.

Palau currently has a national law that imposes a 0.10 cent tax for each beverage container for liquor, tea, coffee, and drinks that are sold. The funds collected from this tax are used for Palau's recycling program, which includes the fund used for paying 0.05 cents per bottle to those who want to redeem their containers.

Torres believes that if the CNMI implements a law similar to that of Palau, this would result in a CNMI environment that is cleaner. "If we can create and come up with stricter laws that impose fees [that would result in] more recycled products…we should really prioritize this," Torres said.

He thanked Gibbons and the other visiting agencies for their help and hopes to get this program running soon. "Palau is the No. 1 steward of our environment and emulating their programs is definitely a plus for us. …If we can't protect our environment, we can't expect our tourists to come back," Torres said.

Last year, Torres sent two delegates to visit Palau and see its recycling industry and factories, and this made Torres interested in implementing a container deposit levy program similar to Palau's Recycling Act, which imposes a tax on beverage containers. Palau's recycling facility has been operational since 2011 and it is estimated to make about $400,000 to $500,000 through taxes alone.

According to Office of Planning and Development director Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong, these local efforts are in line with their mandate to come up with a Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan, and that is why his office is pushing for this project.

"This is a major effort by the governor that really impacts sustainable development and helps reduce our footprint from…solid waste," Ogumoro-Uludong said.

Gibbons also brought to yesterday's meeting Koror state government consultant Katsuo Fuji and Koror state government Solid Waste Management Office manager Selby Etibek to present what is currently being implemented in Koror and most of Palau.

Aside from OPD, the other government agencies present at yesterday's meeting were representatives of the Department of Public Works, Department of Finance, Department of Public Lands, and the Bureau of Coastal and Environmental Quality.

NMC urges more local businesses to support college's perks program

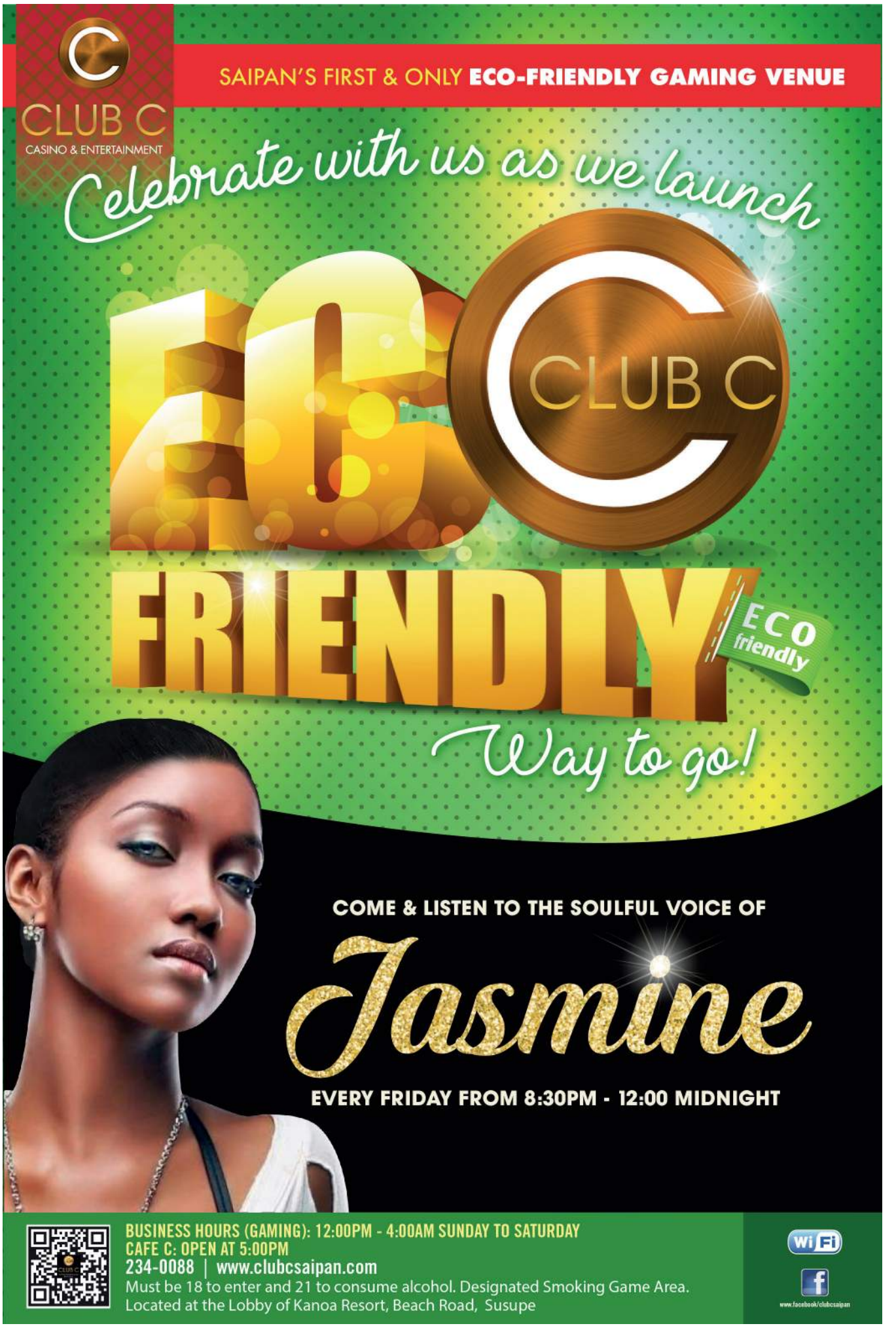
Acting Northern Marianas College president Frankie Eliptico is urging CNMI businesses to support the college's perks program, which seeks to give discounts and other perks to NMC students.

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan during their regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant last week, Eliptico said that supporting NMC's ProaPerks will benefit the college, since NMC will see active participation within its student population in supporting businesses, while also benefitting businesses, which will see an increased number of consumers.

Eliptico said that they have already collaborated with more than 20 local businesses. Some of those businesses are Docomo Pacific, The Shack, Latte Built Gym, and many more. As of Aug. 6, the list of affiliated businesses under the NMC's perks program has reached 32.

According to the NMC website, NMC's ProaPerks program is for graduates, students, employees, and partners. Members will be given a ProaPerks card, something similar to a credit card, to be used to avail of the discounts.

For more information about the ProaPerks program, contact NMC's Alexis Cabrera through email at alexis.cabrera@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-2795. ***(Marc A. Venus)***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Vacant Chalan Kiya home is burglarized

Police officers were dispatched to Chalan Kiya last Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019, in response to a 911 call to the CNMI Department of Public Safety at about 10:12am about a burglary and theft incident at a home.

Officers arrived at the scene at about 10:19am and met with the caller, who reported that they had just returned from an off-island trip and came home to discover that the window to the main bedroom was slightly open, while the screen had been cut from its frame. The individual noticed that a couple of items were missing from the home before calling 911. The individual then led officers to the back of the home and showed officers a disturbed portion of grass that appeared to be a foot trail, to and from the window.

Items missing from the residence include one 50" black Sceptre flatscreen television, one white Apple TV device, one black Apple stainless steel watch band, one 6" red and silver HDMI cable, one white USB extendable lamp, and a roll of quarters.

This case remains on going. If you have any information related to this burglary and theft incident, call 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. ***(PR)***

Increased medical transportation for CNMI veterans sought

The CNMI Veterans Affairs office recently met with military officials in Hawaii to discuss medical transportation for veterans in the CNMI.

Veterans Affairs executive director Stanley T. Iakopo noted that the 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing's Colonel Craig Harmon, Wing Commander, Colonel Scott Wiederholt, Vice Wing Commander, and Chief Master Sergeant Chad Nixon, Command Chief in Hawaii, were receptive regarding opportunities for veteran's medical transportation between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through Hawaii for critical medical appointments.

"Our veterans are struggling to pay for airfare just to get to their medical treatment. Although it's reimbursable, it can take way too long to get to get reimbursed from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The goal is to provide CNMI veterans with better transportation and access to health care providers for specific treatments," Iakopo said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Veterans Affairs executive director Stanley T. Iakopo, second from left, meets with military officials in Hawaii to discuss medical transportation for veterans residing in the CNMI.

Iakopo added that veterans with a permanent disability rating of 100 % can fly for free under Space-A travel within the country.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted that establishing a community-based outpatient clinic for veterans in the CNMI has been an ongoing endeavor but, in the meantime, pursuing solutions for veteran medical transportation remains a critical priority.

"Our Veterans Affairs Office is really pushing forward and starting this discussion for the benefit of our veterans and all service members in our Commonwealth and the region. Health care remains a priority and this is a first step to a constructive and cooperative dialogue between our administration and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. I look forward to more conversations with our VA partners and garnering increased regional support for this effort," Torres said. ***(PR)***

DOF hours of operation

The CNMI Treasury Office as well as the Department of Finance's Division of Revenue and Taxation office will be open on Friday, Aug. 30, 2019, from 7:30am to 11:30am and will remain closed until Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019.

Payments of business gross revenue taxes for August will be extended to Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019.

The CNMI Treasury Office is located on Capital Hill going up Ascension Drive and the Division of Revenue and Taxation is located on the first floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

For more information, log on to www.cnmidof.net or call (670) 664-1100. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-031

SAN VICENTE WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Construction of San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consist of removal of existing 0.5 million gallon steel tank, yard piping, concrete vaults, and all other appurtenances; one (1) additional boring at the center of the existing tank; design and construction of the new 0.75 million gallon pre-stressed concrete water tank and foundation; installation of new water tank piping, valve vaults, control valves, and other appurtenances; construction of new perimeter security fencing and facility lighting; construction of new asphalt concrete access road; and installation of temporary storage tanks at the San Vicente Tank site. The project also includes installation of PSV station with flowmeter at the Dandan Tank site. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **August 21, 2019** at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-031, San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 9:00 AM (ChST) September 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **August 22, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Kirztie Reyes, Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address kirztie.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

EDWIN "DONG" PABALINAS

Went peacefully into God's loving care

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his friends and family in Saipan and the Philippines.

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to DFA Negros, Saipan and Guam Consulate, Philippine Honorary Consul Glicerio "Eli" Arago and Ms. Annamae Adaza for all your help. The money collected from the donation boxes located at Liberty Department Store, LBC Garapan, LBC Middle Road, and D' Elegance Café will be sent to the family to help with the costs of his funeral.

Viewing and last respects will he held at Cabrera Center on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 10:00am - 11:00am.

His remains will be repatriated to the Philippines where he will be laid to peaceful rest.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Friends & Family

Suspect identified in recent burglary incident

The CNMI Department of Public Safety, Criminal Investigation Bureau investigated a burglary and theft incident that occurred at the Yaong Corp. office in Gualo Rai. The incident was reported on April 24, 2019.

Preliminary investigations reveal that a suspect gained entry through an unsecured door that led to a storage room where he was able to take a yellow drywall screw gun. After reviewing the company's surveillance recording, a male individual was seen entering the compound at 6am through the company's main gate and was later seen exiting the same gate holding the screw gun.

Somorang

Further investigation conducted by detectives later identified the male individual as James Somorang, a resident from Gualo Rai. Somorang was interviewed and he allegedly admitted to being responsible for taking the screw gun, and later trading the tool for beer at LC Market in Gualo Rai.

Somorang has not been arrested as the case is being reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General and awaiting formal charges to be filed.

The CNMI Department of Public Safety encourages the public to call 911 anytime to report a crime or an emergency. ***(PR)***

BACK TO SCHOOL

Airmen and soldiers from the Guam National Guard were out in full force yesterday, Aug. 13, at most Guam Department of Education schools to welcome students on their first day of the new school year. They shook hands, waved and gave "high-fives" to the students as they arrived in school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Public warned of high surf, rip currents

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, large northwest swells from distant Tropical Storm Krosa will continue to generate dangerous surf along west-and north-facing reefs through last night and hazardous surf through Friday night. There will be a high risk of rip currents along all reefs except east-facing ones.

A high surf warning was in effect until last night...

There is a high risk of rip currents through Friday night.

A high surf advisory is in effect until Friday night.

Dangerous surf of 12 to 15 feet will persist along west- and north-facing reefs before gradually subsiding to hazardous levels of 10 to 14 feet by this morning. Surf will slowly subside through the week but remain hazardous through at least Friday night.

Strong rip currents are expected along south-, west-, and north-facing reefs through Friday night.

Large surf will produce localized beach erosion and dangerous conditions for swimmers and beach goers.

A high surf warning indicates that dangerous battering waves will pound the shoreline. This will result in life-threatening conditions.

Rip currents are powerful channels of water flowing quickly away from shore, which occur most often at low spots or breaks in the reef. Heed the advice of lifeguards, beach patrol flags, and signs.

If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm. If you have to swim out of a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly.

The public is advised to avoid venturing out along south-, west-, and north-facing reefs and beaches. Huge pounding waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip currents will be life-threatening. ***(PR)***

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 12:00 pm in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices.

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
August 15, 2019 at 12:00 pm
Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Determination of Quorum

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. To vote and Approve Applications for Privileges Renewal Applicants:
1. Dr. Leticia Borja
2. Dr. Philip Dauterman
3. Dr. Michael Hart
4. Dr. Elizabeth Kohnen
5. Dr. Ngoc-Phuong Luu
6. Christine Strong, PA
7. Christopher Jensen, PA

V. To vote and approve the Medical Staff Bylaws

VI. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session to consult with legal counsel.

VII. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 Fax: (670) 233-8756

OPEN INTERVIEW DAYS
Aug. 15th Aug. 22nd Aug. 29th
12pm to 3pm | Charley's Cabaret

* To expedite the interview process, it is recommended to bring a completed job application with resume to the interview.

Rooms Division
- Executive Housekeeper
- Front Office Manager
- Guest Relations Officer

Food & Beverage
- F&B Supervisor
- Bartender
- Restaurant Manager

Maintenance & Engineering
- Assistant Maintenance Manager
- Building Maintenance

Culinary
- Steward
- Baker
- Chef de Partie (Supervisor)
- Cook

Sports Entertainment & Activities
COMING SOON

Finance & Admin.
- Account Analyst
- Night Auditor

*These are temporary, full-time positions and are open to eligible US citizens.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

For inquiries by telephone call (670)234-7976 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm) or email resume to hrcoordinator@picsaipan.com.

Pick up an application at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, San Antonio Street (Security Office) or online at www.picresorts.com/saipan/careers.

2 saved from disabled vessel off Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard, Guam Fire Department, and U.S. Navy rescued two people by locating and towing their disabled vessel into the Hagåtña Boat Basin yesterday.

"This is a great example of the importance of local agency training and partnerships," said Petty Officer 1st Class Brandon Kuechenberg, operations unit watchstander, Response Coordination Center Guam. "Knowing the capabilities of each other and being able to respond to situations cohesively allows us to save lives seamlessly."

At 6:24pm Monday, RCC Guam watchstanders received a report from Guam Fire Department of a grey and white, 16-foot powerboat disabled off Ritidian Point with two people aboard and in danger of drifting into the rocks.

Guam Fire Rescue crews stated they did not have an actual location of the vessel, but were already en route to Ritidian Point. The RCC Guam team contacted the Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron-25 based at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, who were ready to assist and successfully located the vessel at 7:07pm.

HSC-25 passed the position to GFR who arrived on the scene, transferred the two people to their response vessel, and put the disabled boat in tow. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor launched the response boat crew who took over the tow and successfully brought the disabled vessel into Hagåtña Boat Basin.

The GFR boat crew transported the two boaters back to Hagåtña Boat Basin. Upon arrival, the vessel owner met them, and the Station RB-M team conducted a post-search and rescue boarding.

The weather on scene reported as 12-foot seas with 10 mph winds. ***(USCG)***

USCGC cutter makes port call in A. Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Joseph Gerczak* arrived in the Port of Pago Pago last Saturday.

The crew is participating in Operation Aiga to conduct fisheries law enforcement and strengthen partnerships in American Samoa and Samoa throughout August.

"It was a good transit, the longest we've conducted yet, nine days at sea and we're proving the capabilities of these new cutters to operate over the horizon throughout the remote Pacific," said Lt. James Provost, commanding officer of *Joseph Gerczak*. "This is the first time a fast response cutter has come to Pago Pago. We're looking forward to hosting our partners and the public during tours Monday from 1pm to 3pm here at the port."

The U.S. Coast Guard is uniquely positioned to enforce U.S. federal laws and regulations in the territorial waters of American Samoa. Worldwide, tuna is a $7-billion annual industry and roughly 70% of that tuna comes from the Western and Central Pacific. These pelagic fish migrate and it is essential the U.S. and its partners protect the resource from illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing. Estimates place the value of IUU fishing around $616 million annually.

"After this port call, we will be working with [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] fisheries and the American Samoa Marine Police to enforce fisheries regulations in the region while on patrol. Oceania countries adhering to the rule of law deserve and even playing field. Presence, partnerships, and regular enforcement can deter IUU fishing and safeguard these critical fish stocks," said Provost.

The Coast Guard cutter *Walnut* crew will also be conducting a fisheries mission with shipriders from Samoa aboard to enforce sovereign laws in their exclusive economic zone and deter IUU fishing. This effort is being undertaken in coordination with Australia and New Zealand as Samoa transitions their organic patrol assets, upgrading their fleet. Both cutter crews will also respond to any emergent search and rescue needs in the area and seek out opportunities to work with partner nation assets.

The Coast Guard exercises 11 bilateral shiprider agreements with Pacific Island Forum nations to help ensure regional security and maritime sovereignty.

"The U.S. is committed to supporting our allies and neighbors in the Pacific, which is essential to a free and open Indo-Pacific," said Provost.

The *Joseph Gerczak* is a 154-foot Sentinel-Class fast response cutter homeported in Honolulu. It is one of the newest patrol boats in the fleet, replacing the aging 110-foot Island-Class patrol boats serving the nation since the late 1980s. Three fast response cutters will be homeported in Honolulu, the third arriving in August. Three will also be stationed in Guam and are to begin arriving there in 2020. ***(USCG)***

Members of the Coast Guard cutter *Joseph Gerczak* and a Coast Guard recruiter give interviews to television reporters in the Port of Pago Pago, American Samoa, last Aug. 3, 2019.

U.S. COAST GUARD/CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SARA MUIR

Deadline for annuity recipient information update

The Settlement Fund is requesting all members to submit their 2018 Annuity Recipient Information Update form (Form SF-200). The form can be obtained online or at the office of the Settlement Fund. You must attach the following documents to the Form SF-200:

1. A copy of a valid photo identification (ID), such as a driver's license, passport, or other ID issued within the past five years; and

2. If you are a disability annuitant or a surviving spouse, a copy of the 2017 Income Tax Return is required, and for surviving spouses not required to file a tax return, you must submit the Affidavit of Surviving Spouse (Form SF-8).

All forms are available for download at https://www.nmisf.com/forms-2/ and at the Settlement Fund office in Capitol Hill.

The final deadline to submit the 2018 form and accompanying documents is Aug. 23, 2019. Failure to comply, including failure to provide complete information or documents, will result in a suspension of benefit payments until such time that a member is in full compliance.

Forms and accompanying documents may be submitted by: (1) email to info@nmisf.com; (2) facsimile to (670) 664-8080; or (3) hand delivery to the Settlement Fund, Isa Drive, Capital Hill. Contact the Settlement Fund at (670) 322-3863 to verify whether you are in compliance. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 14, 2000

Reduce NMC tuition

In a move to lure more foreign students to pursue postsecondary education into the Northern Marianas College, NMC Development and Alumni Relations Director Tony Deleon Guerrero has proposed that the Board of Regents look into reducing the tuition for nonresident students. Under existing laws, the college has been mandated to double nonresident tuition from the rate imposed on local students. Mr. Guerrero, who has been tasked by the board to market the college to neighboring Asian countries, said there is no need for NMC to charge twice the amount for foreign students.

Gov't. hires experts on PCB

As part of its continuing investigation into the polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in Tanapag village, the CNMI government has hired legal and environmental consultants to advise officials on how to oversee the scheduled cleanup of Cemetery No. 2. The services of Testlaw Practice Group (The Team for Environmental Science and Technology Group) and Meridian Hydrotechnical Services were tapped by the Attorney General's Office to ensure that the safety, health and welfare of Tanapag residents are properly addressed by the U.S. Army Corps during remediation efforts. Both firms are located in South Carolina. Testlaw has started reviewing all documents related to the PCB contamination.

August 14, 2004

CUC tightens security

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is implementing stricter security measures at the Lower Base power plant in view of the July 1 worldwide implementation of new port security rules. CUC executive director Lorraine Babauta said the U.S. Coast Guard approved the utility corporation's facility security plan after the USCG made an inspection at the Lower Base power plant. This approval will remain valid for five years. During the period, Coast Guard personnel will continue to audit CUC's adherence with the requirement of the security plan on an annual basis. CUC had been subjected to the U.S. Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, which was enacted after Sept. 11, 2001.

Anatahan's volcanic eruption stops

Anatahan's volcanic activity dramatically subsided, with the Emergency Management Office reporting very low seismicity level for the island.

The EMO and the U.S. Geological Survey said the seismic signals indicate that the frequent individual eruptions have ceased. The agencies said decreased seismicity level began on July 26. "The ash plume is less than a few kilometers long and below 2,000 feet," the agencies said. The EMO maintained, though, that volcanic activity could change rapidly and could become dangerous to aircraft flying over CNMI airspace.

August 14, 2005

MPLA director justifies delay in Pagan task force creation

Creating a multi-sector task force is not as simple as some people may think; it takes time and much studying, a Marianas Public Lands Authority board member maintained. MPLA director Nicolas Nekai, who was designated to form a task force that would study Pagan pozzolan, said the agency still intends and is taking steps to create the task force. Nekai made this statement in reaction to a concern expressed by the nonprofit group PaganWatch that MPLA is taking too long in forming the task force, if not carrying out the group's functions all by itself already. In an interview, Nekai reiterated that MPLA had created an in-house Pagan group made up of the agency's employees. He added that MPLA's legal counsel is now preparing guidelines for inviting other government agencies and private organizations into the multi-sector task force.

Arrivals from top NMI markets drop

Due to reduced airline seats capacity, visitor arrivals from the top three tourism markets of the Northern Marianas declined last month, compared with the same month last year. Arrivals from Japan fell by 2.28 percent, from 32,037 visitors in July 2004 to 31,306 in July 2005. The Marianas Visitors Authority attributed this to the continuing impact of the decline in airline seats capacity from the Kanto region, the largest market segment covering areas such as Tokyo, Narita, and Chiba. The United States and Guam markets reported the largest increase to the Northern Marianas for the month of July 2005. The CNMI welcomed a total of 1,921 visitors from the United States last month, a 71-percent growth compared with July 2004.

No green card for immigrants who avail of 'public resources'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced yesterday a final rule that defines long-standing law to better ensure that aliens seeking to enter and remain in the United States—either temporarily or permanently—are self-sufficient and rely on their own capabilities and the resources of family members, sponsors, and private organizations rather than on public resources.

This final rule amends DHS regulations by prescribing how DHS will determine whether an alien is inadmissible to the United States based on his or her likelihood of becoming a public charge at any time in the future, as set forth in the Immigration and Nationality Act. The final rule addresses U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services authority to permit an alien to submit a public charge bond in the context of adjustment of status applications. The rule also makes nonimmigrant aliens who have received certain public benefits above a specific threshold generally ineligible for extension of stay and change of status.

"For over a century, the public charge ground of inadmissibility has been part of our nation's immigration laws. President Trump has delivered on his promise to the American people to enforce long-standing immigration law by defining the public charge inadmissibility ground that has been on the books for years," said acting

This final rule amends DHS regulations by prescribing how DHS will determine whether an alien is inadmissible to the United States.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

USCIS director Ken Cuccinelli. "Throughout our history, self-sufficiency has been a core tenet of the American dream. Self-reliance, industriousness, and perseverance laid the foundation of our nation and have defined generations of hardworking immigrants seeking opportunity in the United States ever since. Through the enforcement of the public charge inadmissibility law, we will promote these long-standing ideals and immigrant success."

DHS has revised the definition of "public charge" to incorporate consideration of more kinds of public benefits received, which the department believes will better ensure that applicants subject to the public charge inadmissibility ground are self-sufficient. The rule defines the term "public charge" to mean an individual who receives one or more designated public benefits for more than 12 months, in the aggregate, within any 36-month period (such that, for instance, receipt of two benefits in one month counts as two months). The rule further defines the term "public benefit" to include any cash benefits for income maintenance, Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, most forms of Medicaid, and certain housing programs.

The regulation also excludes from the public benefits definition: public benefits received by individuals who are serving in active duty or in the Ready Reserve component of the U.S. armed forces, and their spouses and children; public benefits received by certain international adoptees and children acquiring U.S. citizenship; Medicaid for aliens under 21 and pregnant women; Medicaid for school-based services (including services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act); and Medicaid benefits for emergency medical services.

This rule also makes certain nonimmigrant aliens in the United States who have received designated public benefits above the designated threshold ineligible for change of status and extension of stay if they received the benefits after obtaining the nonimmigrant status they seek to extend or from which they seek to change.

Importantly, this regulation does not apply to humanitarian-based immigration programs for refugees, asylees, Special Immigrant Juveniles, certain trafficking victims (T nonimmigrants), victims of qualifying criminal activity (U nonimmigrants), or victims of domestic violence (VAWA self-petitioners), among others.

This rule also explains how USCIS will exercise its discretionary authority, in limited circumstances, to offer an alien inadmissible only on the public charge ground the opportunity to post a public charge bond. The final rule sets the minimum bond amount at $8,100; the actual bond amount will be dependent on the individual's circumstances.

RELATED NEWS
■ New rules to deny green cards to many legal immigrants.
PAGE 14

This final rule supersedes the 1999 Interim Field Guidance on Deportability and Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds and goes into effect at midnight Eastern, Oct. 15, 60 days from the date of publication in the *Federal Register*. USCIS will apply the public charge inadmissibility final rule only to applications and petitions postmarked (or, if applicable, submitted electronically) on or after the effective date. Applications and petitions already pending with USCIS on the effective date of the rule (postmarked and accepted by USCIS) will be adjudicated based on the 1999 Interim Guidance.

USCIS will provide information and additional details to the public as part of public outreach related to the implementation of this rule. In the coming weeks, USCIS will conduct engagement sessions for the public and other interested groups to ensure the public understands which benefits are included in the public charge inadmissibility rule and which are not.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit our website at uscis.gov. ***(USCIS)***

Budweiser to host Block Party with int'l DJ's

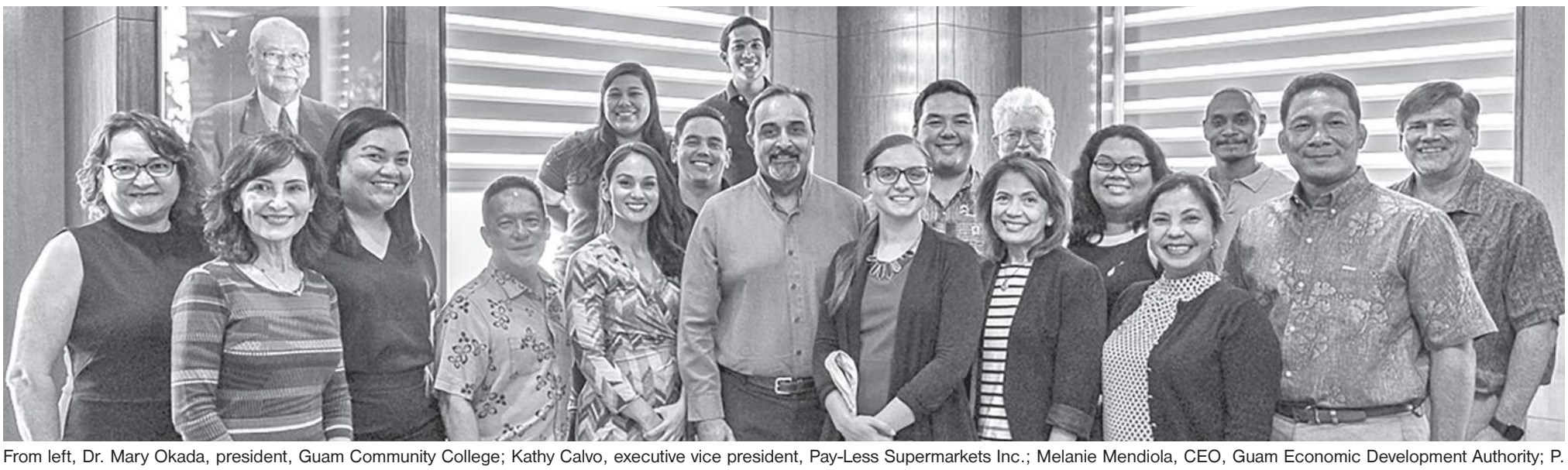
Budweiser is taking over an area of Garapan on Saturday, Aug. 17, to host a Block Party, featuring DJ's from Japan and Korea, as well as Guam, and Saipan.

Located on Royal Palm Street, beginning at Route 30, in Garapan, the 4pm to 3am event will feature:

- The Beerlympics with Roil Soil Clothing from 4pm to 6pm
- Activate Kona Mode promotion finale
- Free drink with every admission ticket
- Chance to win a cabin for two on "It's the Ship" by Cruise Capital
- Late night foam party
- Performances by DJ Saturn, DJ Zodiac Nat, and DJ Mary Tachibana

Local establishments SafeHouse, Godfather's Bar, Cheers, and Jonny's Bar & Grill will be selling food and beverages at the event.

Tickets for the Block Party are $15 each and available for sale at SafeHouse, Marpac in Gualo Rai, and Rocksteady. Each ticket includes Block Party entry, one free drink and one raffle entry. This is a rain-or-shine event, open to those 21 and over only. ***(PR)***



From left, Dr. Mary Okada, president, Guam Community College; Kathy Calvo, executive vice president, Pay-Less Supermarkets Inc.; Melanie Mendiola, CEO, Guam Economic Development Authority; P. Sonny Ada, president, Ada's Trust & Investment Inc. and board chairman, Guam Visitors Bureau; Morgan Leon Guerrero, extension assistant III, Guam EPSCoR; Laura Cepeda, clients relation executive, GTA; Joaquin Cook, CEO, Bank of Guam; Phillip Cruz, sustainability coordinator, University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability; Dr. Rajesh Buch, director of sustainability practice and international development, Arizona State University; Amanda Jordan, program coordinator, ASU Resource Innovation & Solutions Network Incubator; Dr. Austin J. Shelton, executive director, UOG CIS, and director, UOG Sea Grant; Jackie Marati, senior vice president and chief communications officer, Bank of Guam, and chairwoman, ISCA Board; Jeffrey Cook, first gentleman; Myracle Mugol, associate director, UOG Endowment Foundation; Andrea Finona, executive assistant, Office of the Governor/First Gentleman's Office; Leo Tkel, environmental compliance representative, United Airlines; Anthony Babauta, chief of staff, Office of the Governor; and Brent Wiese, principal architect, RIM Architects.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Guam hosts circular economy experts

» Meeting launches Guam Green Growth Initiative

HAGATNA, Guam—A special presentation by two sustainability experts from Arizona State University met with members and guests of the UOG Island Sustainability community advisory board and Bank of Guam executives at a meeting hosted by Bank of Guam.

This meeting launches the University of Guam's Guam Green Growth Initiative, which aims to contribute to a green Guam economy.

Dr. Rajesh Buch, ASU director of sustainability practice and international development, and Amanda Jordan, program coordinator for ASU's Resource Innovation & Solutions Network Incubator, provided examples to ISCA board members of a departure from a standard linear economy to a circular economy.

They led the Island Circular Economy Industry Workshop yesterday at the University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration. The workshop introduced local industry stakeholders to an economic system that designs out waste and pollution, keeps materials in use, and regenerates natural systems.

Joaquin P.L.G. Cook, Bank of Guam president and chief executive officer, noted, "Bank of Guam is proud to host circular economy experts and the discussion about Guam's sustainability possibilities. We applaud the University of Guam and government officials who participated in support of our community goals for a greener Guam, which aligns with the Bank of Guam's mission, and we look forward to participating in impactful discussions and actions." ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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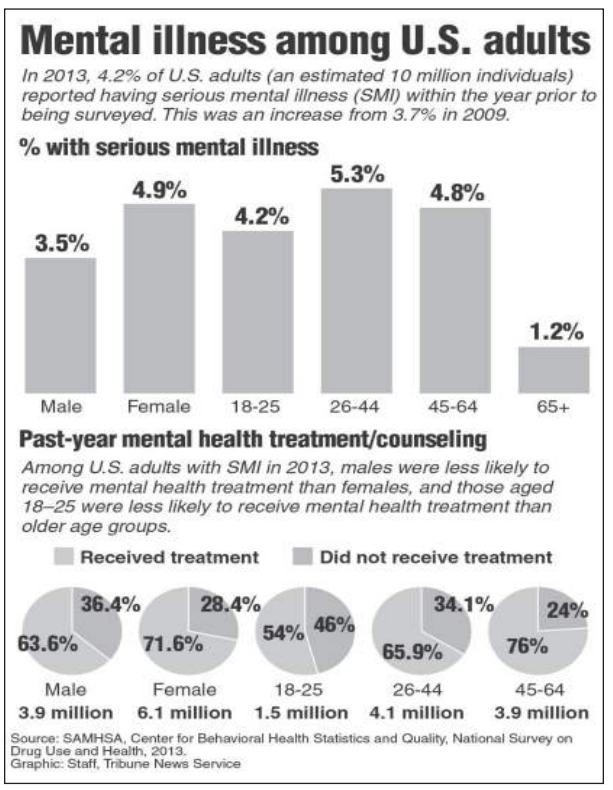
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mental health crisis is so serious that presidential candidates should address it



The recent call by a national coalition of mental health advocates—including Poway resident Linda Mimms—for presidential candidates to focus on mental health issues is timely and valuable.

Among middle-aged and older Americans, high rates of drug overdoses and suicides have pushed U.S. life expectancy down for three years in a row for the first time in a century. As San Diego State University professor Jean M. Twenge has detailed, rates of teen depression and suicide have soared since 2011 as the double whammy of smartphones and social media have fueled isolation and unhappiness—affecting "young people in every corner of the nation and in every type of household."

In a recent interview with Gary Warth of The San Diego Union-Tribune, Mimms made a number of thoughtful points, in particular her observation that the emphasis on privacy in the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) can prevent parents and caregivers from assisting in the treatment of family members. She also thinks having a Cabinet position devoted to serious mental health issues is a good idea.

But whether or not candidates endorse such specifics, their platforms must address what the next president should do to deal with a mental health crisis that is reflected not just in suicides and drug and alcohol abuse but in growing homelessness and more deadly mass shootings. This crisis demands a cohesive, coordinated response.

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WHO KNOWS WHERE THE NEXT GUNMAN, RADICALIZED BY HATE ON THE INTERNET, WILL COME FROM?
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE / LAT
LA TIMES 2019
MIKE SMITH

Slow Journalism: Just the thing for an August afternoon

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a Washington columnist for the land director of the journalism program at Georgetown University.

Like every other right-thinking person, I begin every vacation with an earnest resolution to unplug from the internet: no Twitter, no Facebook, only occasional peeks at email. We spend too much of our lives overwhelmed by information; summer getaways give us a chance to take a breath.

Then, like many people, I fail to keep my promise. The iPad beckons; my fingers twitch. The lure of the news, especially in this noisy time, overcomes my wavering desire to dive into a trashy novel.

So this year, I aimed for a more attainable goal. Instead of the literary equivalent of a crash diet, I decided to improve my reading by focusing on the best journalism I could find. The idea was to displace the Twitter fix with more nutritious stuff: less junk food, more healthy snacks.

I quickly discovered how much I'd been missing. There's a vast amount of good reporting and writing out there, and it rewards a reader's attention more than almost any social media feed. There's even a new name for it: Slow Journalism, a label borrowed from the Slow Food movement that began in Europe a decade or so ago to push back against the tyranny of fast food.

Most online news outlets rely on speed and buzz to grab online readers. Slow Journalism heads in the opposite direction, aiming for great writing at whatever length a subject requires.

A good (if extreme) example: Paul Salopek is walking from Africa to South America and writing about it for National Geographic. He began his 24,000-mile trek in 2013 in Ethiopia, where humans apparently first emerged 200,000 or so years back, and he's following ancient migration paths through Asia toward Alaska and eventually, Tierra del Fuego. He plans to cross the Bering Strait by boat.

After six years of walking he's still only halfway; he just finished crossing India, and is now somewhere in Myanmar. You can't get much slower than that.

Salopek has often found himself sharing the roads with refugees and migrants.

"The total number of destitute, uprooted people in the Middle East now scrapes five million," he wrote. "If you think this exodus won't touch you, you are a fool ... . The world's refugees and migrants don't demand our pity. They just ask for our attention. Me they pitied because I walked on."

In a more traditional vein, take the New Yorker, a home of long-form narrative journalism for almost a century. Recent issues include Ben Taub's gripping story of a Guantanamo prisoner released after 14 years when it became clear he wasn't a big fish after all, and a charming piece by historian Jill Lepore on the strange personal life of Herman Melville.

You can also find Slow Journalism in a good newspaper—like the Los Angeles Times.

Two weeks ago, Joanne Faryon told the compelling story of a man on life support known to his attendants only as "Sixty Six Garage," and how—after two years of reporting—she helped bring his real name to light. Before that, we published "The Man in the Window," Paige St. John's gripping four-part profile of the Golden State Killer who terrorized California neighborhoods in the 1970s and 1980s. (I didn't read it until this month; one advantage of the internet is that good stuff stays online.)

Surprise: Those are all traditional media. Slow Journalism is a new label, but it isn't really a new idea. Good organizations have always invested in adventurous stories that go beyond the daily news. Even Salopek's trek is an update of an old idea; when journalist Henry Morton Stanley famously found the missing Dr. Livingstone in Tanzania in 1871, he was reporting for the New York Herald.

In Slow Journalism's current renaissance—a backlash, in part, against the Twitterverse—new outlets have sprung up as well.

One is Longreads, a donor-supported website that collects Slow Journalism from everywhere and commissions work on its own as well.

In recent weeks it has featured Connie Bruck's profile of controversy-seeking law professor Alan Dershowitz from the New Yorker, but also a lovely piece from Guns & Garden (a magazine not on my regular reading list) on efforts to save loggerhead turtles, starring a 259-pound beast nicknamed Voldemort. "He was starving," his rescuer recalled, "and he was really pissed off." Among its in-house projects: a long serial on Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and the anti-federal government crusade he helped spawn.

Farther afield, there's the Browser, a British cousin of Longreads; its editors promise "to surprise and delight you with pieces you wouldn't have seen otherwise."

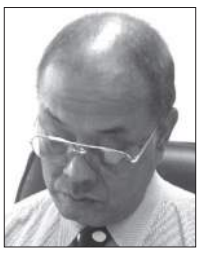
Recent editions include a history of the boom in vegetable-based meat substitutes ("Most baby boomers are going to stick with their beef ... but Gen Z will find the stuff as embarrassing as Def Leppard and dad jeans"), and a 4,000-word essay on Jewish family quarrels.

Have more suggestions? Send them to me, and I'll post the best on latimes.com. Summer still has some quality reading time left.

Meanwhile, I'm heading to the beach with a tote bag of articles I haven't gotten to yet. Happy reading!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Baratun Suetdu



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Ibaratun suetdu i primera kehan empleau siha guine. Estague` i dichu asuntu pot gaige tutuhun usuña gi halum guma` familia.

Hagas problema ni guaha `nai mapañgun kadu` nuebu na asuntu. Mana` bula talañgata offresimientu. Lau taya` adelantu gi monedan familia! Teñga tasañgane haye na fulanu "halulaye" (mona_. Lau guine na biahe halulaye tatte!

Puntu: Homlu` na ekonomia siña fumañagu fondu para setbisiu yan suetdun empleau siha. Sin este, puru dinage mahasñgun gi publiku. Mauleg este? Sin fondu taimanu guaha katsun setbisiu yan offisiu?

Planu?

Gi mismu tiempu i dichu kuestion: kau guaha planu para umaadelanta este na asuntu yan para ñgai`an? Ti menus ke $750 miyon pesus gi sakan ha nesessita este na asuntu.

Kase guaha 15-mit na empleau gumagana suetdun popble mina` seriosu i asuntu ni lumuluñu` kinalamten halum guma` familia.

Komprendiyun i keha ni sessu oppan. Ti u kahulu` i asuntu `an sufisiente moneda. Lau sapet mina` oppan keha ginen i tautau siha.

Asuntun halum guma` familia i sentru asuntu gi este na kehan tautau-ta. Kumu saina hu komprende i makat na hinanau familia gi bandan nesessidat piot `nai sessu mapune asuntu pot mantai moneda para presisu siha na attikulu.

Diariu na iniguñg ginen famaguon-ta gi todu asuntun niha. Gi hilu` este na pinadese, propiu ta ketuñgu` manu `nai gaige pisun suetdun popble yan kau siña ma-adelanta?

I asuntu satbayun lau dañkulu na sakrifisiu ha nesessita para ta komple mas amtau na suetdun empleau siha. Ha nesessita homlu` na ekonomia `nai mas megai fondun kinalamten yan cho`chu` para todus. Mau`udai este gi estudiau na planun ekonomia ni debi ta petsige.

Mañiñila` kandet gi gima` lau kau guaha tautau?

Tinayuyot

Gi halum ira `sino fina` gotpe sin ditension tagagau i Saina bendision yan ayudu. Namahof i metgut na inañgoghu gi Saina.

Rinikonosen linala` espirituat konfitmasion na un` tuñgu yan komprende haye yan hafa Si Yuus. Guiya solu fitme na luseru gi ha`animu ni taimanu na estotbu un` finatoigue. Bendision pas yan katma gaige gi Saina.

Siempre u katma i napu dispues `nai sinede hau mamatinas suanu yan amtau na disposision. Pot mantautau hit na debi tafañeha para tali`e hinanau-ta gi halum barañka na katsadan lina`la`. Ti u lache ginagaumu gi Saina.

Ina`ayuda

Mansuette hit na metgut kutturan ina`ayuda gi familia siha. Estague` kumatsu ha`anita gi halum didog na chinatsaga. Mit grasias na mangeftau lokue` i tautauta gi dichu nesessidat.

Megai besis `nai triste sentimentog-hu `an hu konsidera i makat na chanda gi ha`anen familia siha guine pot tinahuñg chigu`an. Hu komprende satbasionta gi hilu` kutturan ina`ayuda. Satbasion natibu este na modun linala` deste antigu na tiempu—ina`ayuda! Konsidera `an tirun konsu kuat hinanau-ta diariu.

Klima

Deste hinalum tiempun uchan kulan hahoñgañg hit i manadan granu ginen i mapagahes iya paraisu. Benefisiosu pot mañahguan ta`lu tañkeghu hanum yan betde i cha`guan siha gi oriyan guma`.

Disbintaha para i fangualu`an `an inipus na hanum kontra tinanum siha. Lau mapayune finattun este na tiempu mina` ti man-inaminasa ha`anen niha. Maprekura manu ha` `nai kayadan ñaihon i tetin uchan.

Para i talayeru dididi` fotgun lau fresku mas i kantun unai mientras mayoyotte talayan niha. Gi hilu` pinasensia siempre u fan mañgone` para pattun na inaflitu yan kelaguen para i lamasan sena. Mientras ti tumalag mamage fina` mañglu` paire i ha`ane!

Mehnalum

Kada tautau mana`e sensian mehnalum. Un` Bittot (virtue) ni gaige giya hagu silensiu gi taduñg na patte gi konsensia-mu.

Metgut na bittot ni sumede amtau na inadahe yan disposision gi ha`animu. Hana` fan safu hit ginen ti kombidau na diskuidu yan tinailaye siha.

Kumu saina, libianu un` siente `an gai asuntu patgonmu gi chagu` na tanu`. Siempre un` agañg para un` konfitma na felis ha`aniña. Dispues de un` uga gi hilu` grasiosu na konbetsasion `nai un` soda` haf` sessu asuntoña.

`An guaha hihot na parientes para umadispone guaha `nai mana` fañiente hau pot uttimu despedida. Gi man-mofona ni munesessita orasion siempre un` mabisita gi hechuran guinefe `sino metgut gi hinassomu i prohimu. Orasion!

Mabisita

Guaha `nai mabisita hit ni man-mofona na che`lu, parentela `sino atuñgu` layeye pot orasion. I modun bisita entre finatoigue hau `sino metgut mampus gi hinassomu i prohimu. Tana-iye misa yan orasion pot yine`ase`.

I sensian mehnalum otru koyentura `nai siña hau mana`fañiente. Tatnai hu ñega este na ginagau pot esta ti manparehu hit yan siha. Obligasionta humassu siha gi hechuran orasion yan misa. Haf` mauleg un` chogue para i prohimu siempre u na`lu tatte ya ti umahñau.

Hu tuñgu` kumu mabisitayu` ni mañainahu `sino mañeluhu. Un` ti maput na tinayuyot dispues `nai hu kontinua ha`anihu. Hu repite ta`lu antes de bai deskansa `an pueñge. Todu i tiempu mauleg deskansog-hu.

Jeffrey Epstein's wealth and power gave him protection that his victims never got

By CARL HIAASEN
Miami Herald

Carl Hiaasen is a columnist for the Miami Herald*. Readers may write to him at: The Miami Herald, 3511 NW 91st Ave., Miami, Fla., 33172.*

The more we learn about the late Jeffrey Epstein's 13 months in so-called custody at the Palm Beach County Stockade, the clearer is the lesson:

It definitely helped to be rich, even if you were a monstrous sexual predator.

It didn't help Epstein that much at the Metropolitan Correction Center in Manhattan, where he hung himself early Saturday.

For the sake of his many victims, Epstein's death can't be the end of this story.

Just last week, Gov. Ron DeSantis ordered the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to investigate Epstein's coddled life while serving 13 months of an 18-month sentence after pleading guilty in 2008 to two felony counts of prostitution.

One of those crimes involved soliciting sex from a minor, serial behavior of Epstein's that had caught the attention of the FBI. A 53-page federal indictment resulting from that probe was spiked by then-U.S. Attorney Alex Acosta, paving the way for the multimillionaire's mysteriously lenient plea deal.

Even the most jaded observers of the justice system wouldn't expect that royal treatment would be given to a slimy perv who recruited high-school girls to visit his Palm Beach mansion and give him massages.

Yet, according to records from the jail and sheriff's department, Epstein enjoyed perks that no other convicted sex criminal would ever have the gall to request.

He took the concept of "work-release" to a whole new level. He was allowed to leave the stockade 12 hours a day, six days a week and, upon his return, stayed in a mostly empty wing of the facility.

For Epstein, jail wasn't an incarceration so much as an inconvenience. Deputies were given permission to leave his cell unlocked while he was there. He was more of an out-mate than an inmate.

Sometimes he got to watch TV in a room normally reserved for attorneys visiting jailed clients.

During his daily road trips, he was followed by off-duty deputies who were paid $126,000 for their respectful supervision. The officers often wore business suits and addressed him as "Mr. Epstein."

That's usually not how cops talk to child molesters, but most child molesters aren't being driven around by their own personal chauffeurs.

Typically, Epstein spent days at an office of the Florida Science Foundation, a nonprofit he founded shortly before his sentencing on the prostitution charges. WPTV reported it was the foundation that paid Epstein's deputy escorts, who also were supposed to keep written records of who visited him there.

Attorney Bradley Edwards, who represents some of Epstein's female accusers, said he knows of women who were brought to Epstein for sex while he was away from the stockade during the day. Those claims will be part of the new FDLE investigation.

Toward the end of his term, Epstein was even allowed to hang out at his mansion. That's actually more "release-release" than "work-release," but there were extenuating circumstances. How can you properly consult with your landscape architect if you're cooped up in a cell?

The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office has defended its handling of Epstein, saying he was treated no better than any first offender convicted of the same charges. To which imprisoned sex criminals all over the state might say:

So, can I get transferred to your jail? Please? Like, as soon as possible?

A spokesperson for Sheriff Ric Bradshaw told a reporter that there were no rules barring someone like Epstein from participating in work-release—and, besides, Epstein wasn't officially registered as a sex offender until the day after his release from jail.

OK. Nothing like a pointless technicality to put everyone's mind at ease.

DeSantis' announcement of an independent investigation followed a letter from Bradshaw supporting the idea. A day earlier, state Sen. Lauren Book of Plantation had sent the governor more than 4,000 signatures on a petition urging him to take action.

The probe covers not only Epstein's rich-and-famous lifestyle while in custody, but also the original investigation and plea settlement, including a controversial agreement sparing Epstein from federal prosecution.

Another aspect of the 2008 case begging to be examined is ex-State Attorney Barry Krischer's decision not to prosecute the well-connected businessman on more serious child-sex charges, despite the urging of Palm Beach detectives.

Authorities in other jurisdictions where Epstein owns homes strongly suspect he continued pursuing and exploiting underaged girls after he finished his sentence in Florida.

Public outrage about the case was reignited by new reporting from The Herald's Julie K. Brown. The scandal cost Acosta, the former U.S. attorney, his job as labor secretary in the Trump administration. A key assistant in the case, A. Maria Villafana, resigned from the Justice Department late last week.

In July, Epstein was indicted in New York on sex-trafficking charges involving "dozens of minor girls" in Manhattan and Palm Beach between 2002 and 2005. Prosecutors said the victims were as young as 14.

Once the judge denied bail, Epstein knew he was stuck in jail until his trial.

This time, being rich didn't matter. This time, the door on his cell stayed locked.

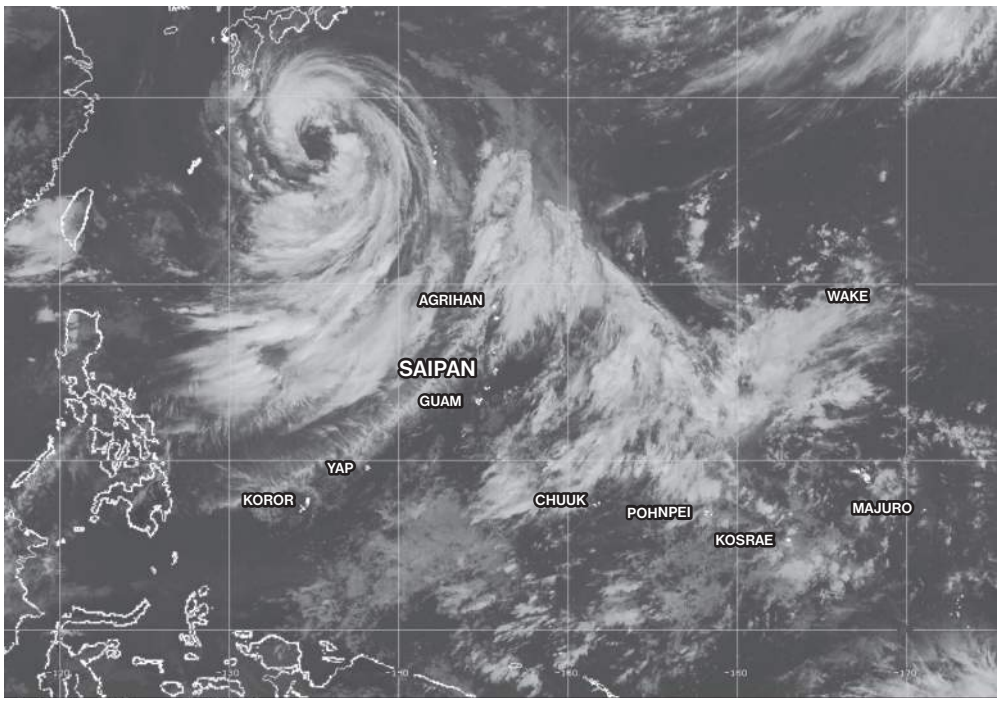
So the monster chose another way out, leaving a legacy of obscene privilege and predation.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon for Guam.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
90° 78°	89° 79°	89° 79°	88° 78°	88° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:31 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies and isolated showers prevail across the Marianas this morning. South to southwest winds are topping out at 15 knots and seas are still elevated at 10 to 13 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Beijing	Sunny	91° / 70°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	89° / 77°
London	Rain	63° / 61°
Los Angeles	Sunny	87° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
New York	Mostly Sunny	84° / 69°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 84°
Paris	Showers	73° / 63°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	99° / 72°
Salem	Thunderstorms	93° / 74°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°
Tokyo	Showers	90° / 81°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:17 AM	LOW TIDE	1.25
6:07 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.88
1:23 PM	LOW TIDE	0.01
8:20 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.88

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:41 AM	5:54 PM
Thursday	-	5:32 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	-	6:21 AM	7:19 PM
Saturday	-	7:10 AM	7:57 PM
Sunday	-	7:57 AM	8:34 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 9, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

BC802	16:45pm	19:30pm	Daily from Aug 9 to 14

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

BC801	10:00am	14:40pm	Daily from Aug 9 to 14

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Coffee & Bread: Tinian's one and only bakery

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It defies belief but Tinian has had no bakery until April this year. It took an X-ray technician to finally open one.

Edwin Sta. Therese, who works at the Tinian Health Center, opened Coffee & Bread on Tinian last April 29 and he said it was borne out of need—both the island and himself.

In mulling over the many prospective businesses that he could pursue on Tinian, Sta. Therese came upon a startling fact: "I found out there is no bakery [on Tinian]."

He also heard that cakes that people order on Saipan "more often than not don't survive the trip across the channel and come here falling apart."

In a sense, Coffee & Bread is just your regular neighborhood bakery. But it is so much more than just that. In fact, the whole neighborhood that Sta. Therese and his two full-time bakers serve is the entire island of Tinian.

The only experience Sta. Therese has in running a bakery was when he worked as a helper in a one when he was just 13 years old but it has been so far so good for Coffee & Bread.

"Currently we serve breakfast with hot coffee and baked pastries. We also supply burger buns, hotdog buns, and some bread to stores and restaurants. …The community has been very supportive since the start.

"It probably helps that Coffee & Bread is the only bakery on the island," he added.

A cup of jave is a staple at Coffee & Bread. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pandesal and ensaymada are some of the bestsellers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coffee & Bread owner Edwin Sta. Therese welcomes customers at the island's lone bakery.

Coffee & Bread's bestsellers have been its hot pandesal, donuts, ensaymada, and braso de Mercedes.

Fortunately for Sta. Therese, the new venture hasn't been affected that much by the economic slowdown and subsequent government austerity measures.

"A bakery is a necessity and everyone needs to eat bread," he said.

Aside from meeting the island's bakery needs, Sta. Therese said he also gets fulfilment in knowing that he is able to provide jobs to the people of Tinian.

For now, Coffee & Bread is only open from 5:30am to 10am, but its operating hours are expected to lengthen with the hiring of two more bakers. Sta. Therese said both bakers are expected to be on island in a couple of months.

Coffee & Bread is also open for corporate meetings with projectors, white board, and public address systems available upon request.

Coffee & Bread is on the ground floor of the Sai Plaza Building, Broadway Road corner Canal Street. For more information and orders, call (670) 433-6666 or click on their Facebook page "Coffee and Bread."

China's Xi gets tougher on Trump after new tariff threat

BEIJING (AP)—Facing another U.S. tariff hike, Chinese President Xi Jinping is getting tougher with Washington instead of backing down.

Beijing fired what economists called a "warning shot" at Washington by letting its yuan currency weaken in response to President Donald Trump's latest threat of more punitive import duties on Sept. 1. Chinese buyers canceled multibillion-dollar purchases of U.S. soybeans. Regulators are threatening to place American companies on an "unreliable entities" list that might face curbs on their operations.

Both sides have incentives to settle a trade war that is battering exporters on either side of the Pacific and threatening to tip the global economy into recession. But Xi's government is lashing out and might be, in a revival of traditional Chinese strategy, settling in for prolonged wrangling in response to what it deems American bullying and attempts to handicap China's economic development.

Negotiators are to meet in September in Washington, but China's political calendar makes progress unlikely. The ruling Communist Party is preparing to celebrate its 70th anniversary in power on Oct. 1—a nationalism-drenched milestone that puts pressure on Xi, the party leader, to look tough.

"The downside risk of no deal has increased," said Raoul Leering, chief trade analyst for Dutch bank ING.

Six months ago, Chinese negotiators were discussing possible concessions including more purchases of American farm goods, market opening and changes in business rules. But by May, Chinese leaders had turned skittish in the face of what they saw as constantly shifting American priorities on a list of demands that range from narrowing their trade surplus to opening markets to possibly scrapping their economic development strategy.

Talks broke down in May over how to enforce any settlement. Beijing says once it takes effect, Trump has to lift punitive 25% tariffs imposed on $250 billion of Chinese imports. Washington insists the tariffs stay to enforce compliance because Beijing has broken too many past promises.

The tone of Chinese state media toward Trump, relatively mild to that point, turned nasty. The ruling Communist Party newspaper accused Washington of "American bullyism."

"Good faith broke down and we took many steps backward," said Bryan Mercurio, a former Canadian trade official and law professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Despite a June agreement by Trump and Xi for more negotiation, neither has shown willingness to compromise. A round of talks in Shanghai last month ended with no sign of progress.

Trump says Beijing needs a deal more than he does. On paper, he is right. Their lopsided trade balance means American demand contributes four times as much to Chinese economic activity as China's purchases provide for the United States.

Russia, Iran, others debate how to split Caspian oil riches

TURKMENBASHI, Turkmenistan (AP)—Five countries bordering the energy-rich Caspian Sea met Monday at an economic forum hosted by Turkmenistan in a bid to agree on how to divide the region's oil wealth.

Last year, the leaders of Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan signed a convention aimed at ending decades-long uncertainty over exploitation of its resources.

The agreement establishes rules for declaring each country's territorial waters and fishing zones, but the issue of dividing seabed that contains rich oil and gas fields is subject to further negotiations.

Russia and Iran are yet to ratify last year's agreement. Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who attended Monday's forum in Turkmenistan, said that the ratification is expected "in the near future."

Iranian Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri was non-committal, making no commitments in his speech at the forum.

Jahangiri argued that non-Caspian nations shouldn't meddle in the region's affairs and charged that the United States' unilateralist policies and its emphasis on sanctions threaten stability of the region.

Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, who has wielded all-encompassing power since taking office in 2006, styling himself as the former Soviet republic's Arkadag (protector), told the forum that the Caspian energy riches should provide a powerful incentive for the region's development.

Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan have yet to agree on how to share the reserves under the seabed. That has impeded progress of the Trans-Caspian natural gas pipeline that would carry Turkmen gas across the sea to Azerbaijan and further on to Western markets.

"It's a very sensitive issue," said Bahram Huseynov, a vice president of Azerbaijan's state oil company SOCAR. "No concrete steps have been made yet and it's too early to discuss specifics."

Huseynov added that demilitarization of the sea border between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan could facilitate the talks on dividing the energy riches.

Nation

New rules to deny green cards to many legal immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration announced Monday it is moving forward with one of its most aggressive steps yet to restrict legal immigration: Denying green cards to many migrants who use Medicaid, food stamps, housing vouchers or other forms of public assistance.

Federal law already requires those seeking to become permanent residents or gain legal status to prove they will not be a burden to the U.S.—a "public charge," in government speak —but the new rules detail a broader range of programs that could disqualify them.

It's part of a dramatic overhaul of the nation's immigration system that the administration has been working to put in place, despite legal pushback. While most attention has focused on President Donald Trump's efforts to crack down on illegal immigration, including recent raids in Mississippi and the continued separation of migrant parents from their children, the new rules target people who entered the United States legally and are seeking permanent status.

AP

Acting Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Ken Cuccinelli, speaks during a briefing at the White House, Monday, Aug. 12, 2019, in Washington.

Trump is trying to move the U.S. toward a system that focuses on immigrants' skills instead of emphasizing the reunification of families.

Under the new rules, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will now weigh whether applicants have received public assistance along with other factors such as education, income and health to determine whether to grant legal status.

The rules will take effect in mid-October. They don't apply to U.S. citizens, though immigrants related to the citizens may be subject to them.

Ken Cuccinelli, acting director of Citizenship and Immigration Services, said the rule change will ensure those who come to the country don't become a burden, though they pay taxes.

"We want to see people coming to this country who are self-sufficient," Cuccinelli said. "That's a core principle of the American dream. It's deeply embedded in our history, and particularly our history related to legal immigration."

Migrants make up a small percentage of those who get public benefits. In fact, many are ineligible for such benefits because of their immigration status.

Trump administration rules that could deny green cards to immigrants who use Medicaid, food stamps, housing vouchers or other forms of public assistance are going into effect, one of its most aggressive moves to restrict legal immigration. (Aug. 12)

Immigrant rights groups strongly criticized the changes, warning the rules would scare immigrants away from asking for needed help. And they voiced concern the rules give officials too much authority to decide whether someone is likely to need public assistance in the future.

The Los Angeles-based National Immigration Law Center said it would file a lawsuit, calling the new rules an attempt to redefine the legal immigration system "in order to disenfranchise communities of color and favor the wealthy."

And David Skorton, president and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges said, "The consequences of this action will be to potentially exacerbate illnesses and increase the costs of care when their condition becomes too severe to ignore,"

"This change will worsen existing health inequities and disparities, cause further harm to many underserved and vulnerable populations and increase costs to the health care system overall, which will affect all patients," he said in a statement.

Epstein death shifts federal focus to possible conspirators

NEW YORK (AP)—In the wake of Jeffrey Epstein's suicide, federal prosecutors in New York have shifted their focus to possible charges against anyone who assisted or enabled him in what authorities say was his rampant sexual abuse of underage girls.

Two days after the wealthy financier's death in the New York jail where he was awaiting trial on sex-trafficking charges, Attorney General William Barr warned on Monday that "any co-conspirators should not rest easy."

"Let me assure you that this case will continue on against anyone who was complicit," Barr said at a law enforcement conference in New Orleans. "The victims deserve justice, and they will get it."

Authorities are most likely turning their attention to the team of recruiters and employees who, according to police reports, knew about Epstein's penchant for underage girls and lined up victims for him. The Associated Press reviewed hundreds of pages of police reports, FBI records and court documents that show Epstein relied on an entire staff of associates to arrange massages that led to sex acts.

If any Epstein assistants hoped to avoid charges by testifying against him, that expectation has been upended by his suicide.

"Those who had leverage as potential cooperators in the case now find themselves as the primary targets," said Jacob S. Frenkel, a former federal prosecutor. "They no longer have anyone against whom to cooperate."

One possible roadblock to further charges is the controversial plea agreement Epstein struck more than a decade ago in Florida. The non-prosecution agreement not only allowed Epstein to plead guilty in 2008 to lesser state charges and serve just 13 months behind bars, it also shielded from prosecution several Epstein associates who allegedly were paid to recruit girls for him.

Federal prosecutors in New York, in charging Epstein last month, argued that the non-prosecution agreement is binding only on their counterparts in Florida.

But Gerald Lefcourt, a lawyer who negotiated the agreement, said the deal should still protect any alleged co-conspirators for what happened between 2001 and 2007.

"I would never have signed the agreement or recommended it unless we believed that it resolved what it said: all federal and state criminal liability," Lefcourt said Monday.

Police reports say Epstein's assistants worked like an advance team to facilitate his twice-daily massages, often from high school girls who were paid hundreds of dollars per "appointment." Epstein's personal assistant, Sarah Kellen, would call ahead to recruiters in Florida when Epstein was planning a trip to his Palm Beach mansion, the police reports say.

Kellen, who is among four women named in the non-prosecution agreement, would allegedly greet girls arriving at the mansion and escort them to a room with a massage table where Epstein would be waiting, wearing only a towel. A 2008 lawsuit in Florida accused Kellen of not only scheduling encounters between Epstein and an underage girl but of taking nude photographs of her.

Kellen now goes by the name Sarah Kensington and runs an interior design firm. Her attorneys did not respond to requests for comment.

ACROSS THE NATION

Dayton gunman's friend due in court on gun-related charge

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Federal authorities say they know who helped the Dayton gunman buy the body armor and assemble the weapon used in last week's mass shooting. But authorities say there's not any evidence that Connor Betts' longtime friend knew about what he had planned. The accusations came as prosecutors unsealed charges against Ethan Kollie of Kettering that accuse him of lying on a federal firearms form while buying a pistol not used in the shooting. Kollie is to appear in federal court Wednesday on the charges. His attorney says Kollie was shocked that Betts carried out the shooting. Authorities say they discovered that Kollie had lied on the form while investigating the Aug. 4 shooting in Dayton. Police say Betts killed nine people within 30 seconds before officers shot and killed him.

Man gets life for killing parents, brother over webcam model

CHULUOTA, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man has been sentenced to life in prison for killing his parents and brother because prosecutors say he was angry they cut off his relationship with a model he met on an adult website. The Orlando Sentinel reports that the 12 jurors didn't unanimously choose the death penalty for Grant Amato on Monday, meaning an automatic life sentence. The same panel previously found Amato guilty of three counts of first-degree murder in the January slayings. Seminole County deputies say Amato had stolen $60,000 and guns from his brother to talk to a Bulgarian woman he met online. Investigators say Grant also stole $150,000 from his father, including a loan taken out on his parents' house. Authorities say Amato sent the woman over $200,000 in a three-month period.

3rd parishioner testifies that priest groped her as a child

WASHINGTON (AP)—A third parishioner has testified that a Washington, D.C., priest groped her as a child, first caressing her thigh during a "face-to-face" confession and then groping her chest. The 47-year-old priest Urbano Vazquez is on trial on child sex abuse charges. The Washington Post reports the 18-year-old woman told the court that Vazquez first touched her thigh when she was 13 in spring 2015. She testified that weeks later, Vazquez shoved his hand into her bra as she sat in a church office. Another woman testified Vazquez kissed her when she was 16 in 2015, a year after he was ordained. And a 12-year-old girl testified that Vazquez groped and kissed her when she was 9 and 10. The priest's lawyer says the allegations are fabricated and lack common sense.

Asia

Hong Kong airport protest shutdown tarnishes business image

Mass flight cancellations at Hong Kong's airport disrupted one of the world's busiest air-transport hubs on Monday, causing chaos for tourists and business travelers and playing havoc with global airlines' flight schedules— a fresh escalation of the city's protest movement that threatens the Asian city's business-friendly image.

Thousands of supporters of the largely leaderless pro-democracy protest movement descended on the terminal in an effort to get the message out to the world about their struggle and the harsh tactics used by police. Many wore eyepatches to show their solidarity with a female protester who reportedly was hit in the eye by a projectile fired by police.

The protests, which have seen both sides adopt increasingly extreme tactics, had until Monday been mostly confined to neighborhoods across the former British colony. But the airport protest, which caused the cancellation of more than 150 flights, was a rare case of the movement having a direct impact on business travel and tourism—mainstays of the Asian business center's economy.

Analysts said it could make foreign investors think twice about setting up shop in Hong Kong, which has long prided itself as being Asia's leading business city with convenient air links for executives traveling across the region.

"The level of political risk associated with operating in Hong Kong is unprecedently high and the situation isn't simply a flash in the pan," said Hugo Brennan, principal Asia analyst at global risk consultancy Veritas Maplecroft.

"Those investors that haven't already done so are beginning to question the utility of being based in the territory. Others have already begun the search for more politically stable hubs in the Asia-Pacific," he said.

Adding to the protesters' anger, Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways told employees in a memo that the carrier has a "zero tolerance" for employees joining "illegal protests" and warned disciplinary consequences could include being fired.

A Cathay Pacific pilot was charged with rioting and two ground staff fired for misconduct, the airline said by email Monday. The moves came after the Chinese government warned Cathay Pacific, one of Hong Kong's best-known international brands, to bar its staff from participating in the protests—an escalation into the territory's business affairs.

Hong Kong officials warned that Monday's protest risked hurting the city's reputation as a travel and transport center.

"There is a serious impact on the operation of the airport," said Hong' Kong's second-highest ranking government official, Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung. "We are an international airport hub and it is also the trunk of Hong Kong's business."

There were already signs business travelers were looking elsewhere.

"Some customers have shown a decline in travel bookings to Hong Kong in June and July, as a number of countries have issued safety advisories urging travelers to exercise caution," said Julian Walker, a spokesman for travel management platform CWT, formerly known as Carlson Wagonlit.

It was too early to know how Monday's shutdown had affected bookings, he said.

Hong Kong's international airport was built on land reclaimed from the sea and opened in 1998, replacing an aging airstrip in the middle of the crowded, mountainous city. ***(AP)***

AP

Protesters surround banners that read: "Those on the street today are all warriors!" center top, and "Release all the detainees!" during a sit-in rally at the arrival hall of the Hong Kong International airport in Hong Kong, Monday, Aug. 12, 2019.

N. Korea says Kim supervised weapons tests, criticizes Seoul

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Sunday that leader Kim Jong Un supervised test-firings of an unspecified new weapons system, which extended a streak of launches that are seen as an attempt to build leverage ahead of negotiations with the United States while driving a wedge between the U.S. and South Korea.

The report by North Korean state media came hours after President Donald Trump said that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un expressed a desire to meet again to start nuclear negotiations after the end of ongoing joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises, and that he apologized for the flurry of recent short-range ballistic launches that rattled U.S. allies in the region.

In a separate statement on Sunday, North Korea's Foreign Ministry blasted South Korea for continuing to host military drills with the United States, and said that future dialogue will be held strictly between Pyongyang and Washington and not between the Koreas.

South Korea's military said the North on Saturday fired what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles. It said they flew about 400 kilometers (248 miles) before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

Kim expressed "great satisfaction" over the launches, which the North's official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, said verified that the new weapons system is able to perform as designed. North Korea's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper published several photos that showed Kim watching from an observation post and what appeared to be a missile soaring from a mobile launcher.

KCNA didn't specify whether the weapons were ballistic missiles or rocket artillery, but said they were developed to suit the North's "terrain condition" and provide "advantageous tactical character different from existing weapons systems."

Kim Dong-yub, an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said North Korea's photos and South Korea's flight data of the launches suggest that the North tested a new weapons system that is different from the short-range ballistic missiles it repeatedly fired in recent weeks.

South Korea's military had described the previous missiles as similar to the Russian-made Iskander, a solid-fuel, nuclear-capable missile that is highly maneuverable and travels on low trajectories, improving its chances of evading missile defense systems.

North Korea's fifth round of weapons launches in less than three weeks was seen as a protest of the slow pace of nuclear negotiations and continuance of the U.S.-South Korea military drills the North claims are an invasion rehearsal.

Experts say Trump's downplaying of the North's launches allowed the country more room to intensify its testing activity while it seeks to build leverage ahead of a possible resumption of negotiations. Talks have stalled since the collapse of Trump's second summit with Kim in Vietnam in February over disagreements on exchanging sanctions relief and disarmament.

Troops let some Muslims go to mosques in locked-down Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Troops in Indian-administered Kashmir allowed some Muslims to walk to local mosques alone or in pairs to mark the Eid al-Adha festival Monday on the eighth day of an unprecedented security lockdown imposed as India stripped the disputed region of its autonomy.

Thousands of additional troops were sent to the mostly-Muslim region before India's Hindu nationalist-led government said Aug. 5 it was revoking Kashmir's special constitutional status and downgrading its statehood. All communications and the internet remained cut off to limit protests against the decision in the Himalayan region where most people oppose Indian rule. Streets were deserted, with most people staying indoors and authorities not allowing large groups to gather.

"Our hearts are on fire," said Habibullah Bhat, 75, who said he came out to pray on the Islamic holy day despite his failing health. "India has thrown us into the dark ages, but God is on our side and our resistance will win."

Hundreds of worshippers gathered on a Srinagar street after the prayers and chanted, "We want freedom" and "Go India, go back," witnesses said. Officials said the protest ended peacefully.

Elsewhere, two people were injured in violence, senior police officer S.P. Pani said. He did not give any details.

There were "no reports of starvation" and medical facilities, utilities and banking services were functioning normally, he said.

The near-constant curfew and the communications blackout meant independent verification of events was difficult, especially beyond the region's main city of Srinagar.

Kashmiris are accustomed to stockpiling essentials during the region's harsh winters, and during past, less severe crackdowns. But in Srinagar, residents have begun to run short of food, prescription drugs and other necessities as shops remain closed and movement is restricted. Parents have struggled to entertain their children who are unable to go to school.

Vijay Keshav Gokhale, the ministry's top diplomat, said communications restrictions "will be gradually eased when we feel the law and order situation improves." He said most mosques opened for Eid prayers, but some were not for security reasons.

The lockdown is expected to last through Thursday, India's independence day.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan but claimed in full by both. The nuclear neighbors and bitter rivals have fought two wars over Kashmir, and the first one ended in 1948 with a promise of a U.N.-sponsored referendum in the territory. It has never been held.

Rebels have been fighting Indian rule for decades in the portion administered by New Delhi.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and opposition leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed support for people in the Indian-administered portion of Kashmir to have self-determination. Both visited the Pakistani-controlled portion of Kashmir for Eid.

World

5 Russian nuclear engineers buried after rocket explosion

MOSCOW (AP)—Thousands of people attended the funerals Monday of five Russian nuclear engineers killed by an explosion as they tested a new rocket engine, a tragedy that fueled radiation fears and raised questions about a secretive weapons program.

The engineers, who died Thursday, were laid to rest Monday in Sarov, which hosts Russia's main nuclear weapons research center, where they worked. Flags flew at half-staff in the city 370 kilometers (230 miles) east of Moscow that has been a base for Russia's nuclear weapons program since the late 1940s. The coffins were displayed at Sarov's main square before being driven to a cemetery.

The Defense Ministry initially reported the explosion at the navy's testing range near the village of Nyonoksa in the northwestern Arkhangelsk region killed two people and injured six others. The state-controlled Rosatom nuclear corporation then said over the weekend that the blast also killed five of its workers and injured three others. It's not clear what the final toll is.

The company said the victims were on a sea platform testing a rocket engine and were thrown into the sea by explosion.

AP

In this grab taken from a footage provided by the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation ROSATOM press service, people gather for the funerals of five Russian nuclear engineers killed by a rocket explosion in Sarov, the closed city, located 370 kilometers (230 miles) east of Moscow, Monday, Aug. 12, 2019.

Rosatom director Alexei Likhachev praised the victims as "true heroes" and "pride of our country."

"Our further work on new weapons that we will certainly complete will be the best tribute to them," Likhachev said during the funeral, according to Rosatom. "We will fulfill the Motherland's orders and fully protect its security."

Rosatom said the explosion occurred while the engineers were testing a "nuclear isotope power source" for a rocket engine. Local authorities in nearby Severodvinsk, a city of 183,000, reported a brief spike in radiation levels after the explosion, but said it didn't pose any health hazards.

Still, the statement from Severodvinsk's administration came just as the Defense Ministry insisted that no radiation had been released, a claim that drew comparisons to Soviet-era attempts to cover up catastrophes. Spooked residents rushed to buy iodide, which can help limit the damage from exposure to radiation.

Following the explosion, Russian authorities also closed part of Dvina Bay on the White Sea to shipping for a month, in what could be an attempt to prevent outsiders from seeing an operation to recover the missile debris.

The Severodvinsk city administration said the radiation level rose to 2 microsieverts per hour for about 30 minutes on Thursday before returning to the area's natural level of 0.1 microsieverts per hour. Emergency officials issued a warning to all workers to stay indoors and close the windows.

The radiation level of 2 microsieverts per hour is only slightly higher than the natural background radiation, which could vary between 0.1 and 0.4 microsieverts per hour. It's lower than the cosmic radiation that plane passengers are exposed to on longer haul flights.

Regional authorities haven't reported any radiation increases after Thursday's spike.

Russian environmental groups have urged the government to release details of the radioactive leak, but officials offered no further details.

4 opposition lawmakers stripped of immunity in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Legislators loyal to Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Monday stripped immunity from four opposition lawmakers accused of treason amid a struggle for control of the crisis-stricken nation.

The move brings to 18 the number of opposition politicians Maduro's government has threatened with criminal prosecution so far this year.

Socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello oversaw the unanimous vote as head of the National Constituent Assembly, the legislative body stacked with Maduro's allies that rivals the opposition-controlled National Assembly. Its members cheered and waved Venezuelan flags overhead throughout the afternoon session.

"Justice is slow, but it gets to where it has to go," said Cabello, justifying the move depriving lawmakers of immunity from prosecution by saying they had been caught "flagrantly" in the act of criminal activity.

A political battle for control of Venezuela between Maduro's socialist government and opposition leader Juan Guaidó has been playing out since January, when Guaidó launched a campaign with backing from the United States and more than 50 other nations to oust Maduro.

The four lawmakers singled out Monday were José Guerra, Rafael Guzmán, Tomás Guanipa and Juan Pablo García Canales. Others already facing criminal prosecution have sought refuge in foreign embassies or fled the country, fearing for their safety.

Edgar Zambrano, vice president of the National Assembly, remains jailed after being accused of participating in a failed military uprising on April 30. He was towed to jail inside his car.

Guerra responded in a video posted online, calling the charges "absurd."

"You're the ones who are traitors, who have left this country in misery and ruin," he said, speaking from an undisclosed location.

Actions taken by pro-Maduro legislators on Monday, however, fell short of warnings a day earlier from Guaidó, who said he had learned the pro-government body would dissolve the opposition-run congress completely and call for an early election.

That quickly raised alarms because the National Assembly has been the last branch of Venezuela's government to remain independent from the control of Maduro's ruling socialist party.

Instead, under Cabello's lead, the National Constituent Assembly formed a commission to consider when the election should be held. He said its members could decide to elect a new National Assembly in the coming days or anytime next year.

The National Assembly's five-year term is set to end in December 2020, and elections are traditionally held in the last month of its session. Maduro has threatened for months to call early parliamentary elections.

In a video streamed on social media late Sunday, Guaidó warned of a new phase of "heightened conflict" and called on members of armed forces, the Venezuelan public and the international community to be aware of the government's "new madness."

"The people of Venezuela should be alert," Guaidó said. "If the dictator decides to continue down this road... of course our response will come from the people."

WORLD BRIEFS

Fire east of Athens under control; some homes damaged

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A big fire that spread quickly overnight in an eastern suburb of Athens appeared to be under control soon after dawn Monday. The fire had raced up the slopes of 1,026-meter (3,366 feet) Mount Hymettus, which separates suburban Peania from the main city. Flames shooting up the mountain on what was a pretty extensive front could be seen from Athens early Monday morning. Alarm lights were flashing at the flat mountaintop, occupied by an army communications base and transmission antennas for Greece's main TV stations. Firefighting vehicles were also seen rushing up the road to the mountaintop. At least 141 firefighters with 46 vehicles were fighting the fire and eight specialized helicopters joined them at the break of dawn, authorities say. A spokesman for the fire service, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the fire started among local houses and the fire brigade had not received any calls about houses on fire. He added that a survey of the damage would come after the fire had been put out. Eyewitnesses saw one house extensively damaged.

Italian Senate cuts short vacation to set no-confidence vote

ROME (AP)—The Italian Senate will return Tuesday from its summer vacation to set a crucial date for a no-confidence vote on Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's populist government. That development followed a meeting Monday of party whips in the Senate who failed to unanimously agree on the date of the no-confidence vote. Interior Minister Matteo Salvini declared last week that his right-wing League party no longer supports Conte and is pressing for a no-confidence vote in the next few days. He's calculating that Conte will lose and resign, triggering what Salvini hopes will be a new election as early as this fall. Eager to become premier himself, Salvini wants to go to the polls as soon as possible to capitalize both on the League's rising popularity and the waning support for his senior coalition partner, the populist 5-Star Movement. Italy's main opposition party, the center-left Democratic Party (PD), is already divided over its future strategy. Party secretary Nicola Zingaretti issued a call for unity Monday, reiterating that the key decision on whether and when to call an early election is in the hands of President Sergio Mattarella. He added that the Democrats are not afraid of facing an early ballot.

Portugal rations gas as tanker drivers strike over pay

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Portugal began rationing gas Monday as a precaution after 2,000 truck drivers began an open-ended strike over pay, a move that comes at the height of the crucial summer tourist season and during the summer harvest. The government set a limit at gas stations of 25 liters (6.6 gallons) for light vehicles and 100 liters (26.4 gallons) for trucks until further notice as most tanker truck drivers walked off the job. Some truckers in other sectors of the economy also joined the walkout. Anticipating gas and fresh food shortages, the center-left Socialist government, which faces a general election in October, is demanding truckers provide a minimum volume of supplies, including to emergency services and airports. Authorities hope to minimize disruptions by demanding that truckers maintain 75% of normal gas deliveries for public transport systems and 50% to gas stations. All perishable goods and at least half of the normal food supplies must also be delivered to stores. Some trucks delivering gas Monday had a police escort, and police said they were on standby for the possibility of roadblocks erected by strikers. Few queues were reported yet at gas stations after many people filled their tanks over the weekend.

Focus

Questions swirl around Epstein's monitoring before suicide

By JIM MUSTIAN, MICHAEL R. SISAK and MICHAEL BALSAMO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—One of Jeffrey Epstein's guards the night he hanged himself in his federal jail cell wasn't a regular correctional officer, according to a person familiar with the detention center, which is now under scrutiny for what Attorney General William Barr on Monday called "serious irregularities."

Epstein, 66, was found Saturday morning in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, a jail previously renowned for its ability to hold notorious prisoners under extremely tight security.

"I was appalled, and indeed the whole department was, and frankly angry to learn of the MCC's failure to adequately secure this prisoner," Barr said at a police conference in New Orleans. "We are now learning of serious irregularities at this facility that are deeply concerning and demand a thorough investigation. The FBI and the office of inspector general are doing just that."

He added: "We will get to the bottom of what happened and there will be accountability."

In the days since Epstein's death while awaiting charges that he sexually abused underage girls, a portrait has begun to emerge of Manhattan's federal detention center as a chronically understaffed facility that possibly made a series of missteps in handling its most high-profile inmate.

Epstein had been placed on suicide watch after he was found in his cell a little over two weeks ago with bruises on his neck. But he had been taken off that watch at the end of July and returned to the jail's special housing unit.

There, Epstein was supposed to have been checked on by a guard about every 30 minutes. But investigators have learned those checks weren't done for several hours before Epstein was found unresponsive, according to a person familiar with the episode. That person was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and also spoke on condition of anonymity.

A second person familiar with operations at the jail said one of the two people guarding Epstein in the hours before he was found with a bedsheet around his neck wasn't a correctional officer, but a fill-in who had been pressed into service because of staffing shortfalls. That person also wasn't authorized to disclose information about the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

It wasn't clear what the substitute's regular job was, but federal prisons facing shortages of fully trained guards have resorted to having other types of support staff fill in for correctional officers, including clerical workers and teachers.

The news that one of Epstein's guards wasn't a regular correctional officer was first reported by The Washington Post.

The manner in which Epstein killed himself has not been announced publicly by government officials. An autopsy was performed Sunday, but New York City Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Barbara Sampson said investigators were awaiting further information. A private pathologist, Dr. Michael Baden, observed the autopsy at the request of Epstein's lawyers.

The Associated Press does not typically report on details of suicide, but has made an exception because Epstein's cause of death is pertinent to the ongoing investigations.

The House Judiciary Committee demanded answers from the Bureau of Prisons about Epstein's death. Committee chairman Jerrold Nadler, a Democrat, and the panel's top Republican, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, wrote the bureau's acting director Monday with several questions about the conditions in the prison, including details on the bureau's suicide prevention program.

Inmates on suicide watch in federal jails are subjected to 24 hours per day of "direct, continuous observation," according to U.S. Bureau of Prisons policy. They are also issued tear-resistant clothing to thwart attempts to fashion nooses and are placed in cells that are stripped of furniture or fixtures they could use to kill themselves.

Those watches, though, generally last only 72 hours before someone is either moved into a medical facility or put back into less intensive monitoring.

The jail does have a video surveillance system, but federal standards don't allow the use of cameras to monitor areas where prisoners are likely to be undressed unless those cameras are monitored only by staff members of the same gender as the inmates. As a practical matter, that means most federal jails nationwide focus cameras on common areas, rather than cell bunks.

Lindsay Hayes, a nationally recognized expert on suicide prevention behind bars, said that cameras are often ineffective because they require a staff member to be dedicated full time to monitoring the video feed 24 hours a day.

"It only takes three to five minutes for someone to hang themselves," said Hayes, a project director for the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives. "If no one is watching the screen, then the camera is useless. There are a lot of suicides that just end up being recorded."

On the morning of Epstein's apparent suicide, guards on his unit were working overtime shifts to make up for staffing shortages, one person familiar with the matter said. The person said one guard was working a fifth straight day of overtime and another was working mandatory overtime.

Epstein's death cut short a prosecution that could have pulled back the curtain on his activities and his connections to celebrities and presidents, though Barr vowed Monday that the case will continue "against anyone who was complicit with Epstein."

"Any co-conspirators should not rest easy. The victims deserve justice and they will get it," he said.

According to police reports obtained by the AP, investigators believed Epstein had a team of recruiters and employees who lined up underage girls for him.

ABC News aired video Monday of FBI agents and police arriving by boat at a private island in the U.S. Virgin Islands where Epstein had an estate.

In a court filing Monday, Epstein's accusers said that an agreement he negotiated with federal prosecutors in Florida over a decade ago to grant immunity to his possible accomplices should be thrown out now that he is dead. Under that 2008 agreement, Epstein pleaded guilty to prostitution-related state charges and served 13 months behind bars.

At the time of his death, Epstein was being held without bail and faced up to 45 years in prison on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges unsealed last month.

Epstein's death is the latest black eye for the Bureau of Prisons, which was already was under fire over the October beating death of Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger at a federal prison in West Virginia. The bureau is part of the Justice Department and falls under the attorney general's supervision.

Taken together, the two deaths underscore "serious issues surrounding a lack of leadership" within the bureau, said Cameron Lindsay, a former warden who ran three federal lockups, including the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn.

A defense attorney for Epstein, Marc Fernich, also faulted jail officials, saying they "recklessly put Mr. Epstein in harm's way" and failed to protect him.

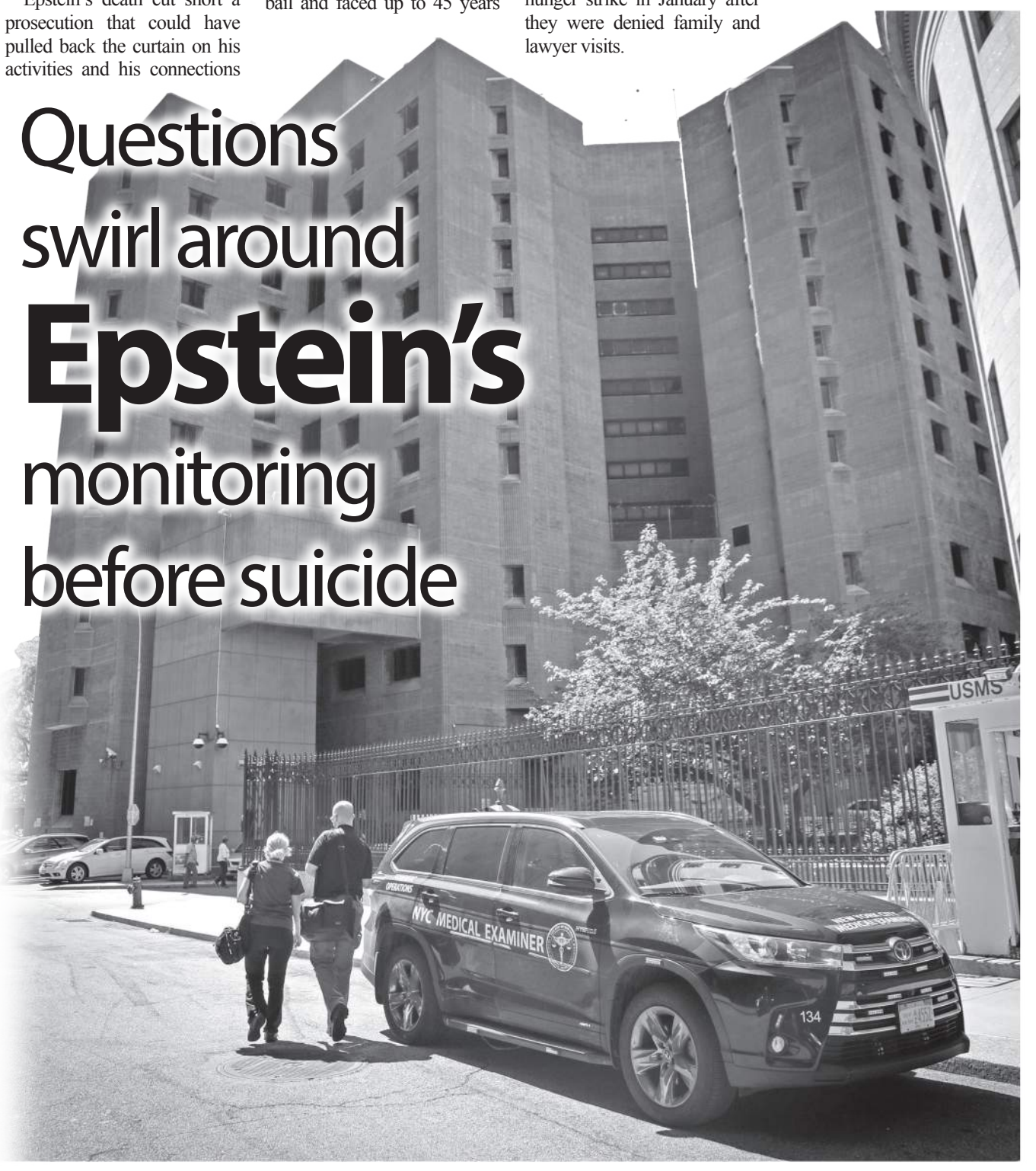
Staffing shortages worsened by a partial government shutdown prompted inmates at the New York City jail to stage a hunger strike in January after they were denied family and lawyer visits.

Eight months later, the jail remains so short-staffed that the Bureau of Prisons is offering guards a $10,000 bonus to transfer there from other federal lockups.

In the wake of Epstein's suicide, union president Eric Young of the American Federation of Government Employees Council of Prison Locals said a Trump administration hiring freeze at the Bureau of Prisons has led to thousands of vacancies and created "dangerous conditions" for prison workers and inmates.

In a statement, Young said that teachers, clerical workers and other support staff are regularly used to fill in for guards, and many guards are regularly forced to work 70- and 80-hour weeks.

Suicide has long been the leading cause of death in U.S. jails overall. In the federal system, suicides are rarer. At least 124 inmates killed themselves while in federal custody between fiscal years 2010 and 2016, according to the most recent statistics available from the Bureau of Prisons.



AP

New York City medical examiner personnel leave their vehicle and walk to the Manhattan Correctional Center where financier Jeffrey Epstein died by suicide while awaiting trial on sex-trafficking charges, Saturday Aug. 10, 2019, in New York. Epstein was found in his cell at the facility Saturday morning, according to the officials, who was briefed on the matter but spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss it publicly. The medical examiner's office in Manhattan confirmed Epstein's death.

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING: Holy Grail hibiscus a 'holy wow' plant

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Holy Grail hibiscus is part of the Summerific Series and boasts eight colors. TNS

Holy Grail hibiscus flowers measure 8 to 9 inches in width. TNS

Holy Grail hardy hibiscus is being used in this location as a backdrop to a pollinator garden. TNS

Once a bloom as fallen on the Holy Grail hibiscus a chartreuse star-shaped calyx remains. TNS

This has been the year of the hibiscus at The Garden Guy's house. The tropical selections like South Pacific Sipper, Monsoon Mixer, Hawaiian Big Kahuna, and Fiesta. The past few weeks it is the Holy Grail a hardy hibiscus that you simply can't take your eyes off. Holy Grail is part of Proven Winner's Summerific series. There are a total of 8 colors in the series with Berry Awesome also acclaimed.

Typically, a tropical hibiscus, Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, has glossy leaves and the perennial types, rose mallow hybrids are flat. 'Holy Grail' has dark green foliage that has been aging to purple. In promotional photos, the images show very deep or dark purple leaves. My area is a little sunlight challenged so I'm not sure if mine will reach that level of purple or not.

The blooms are deep red, darker in the center and reach 8- to 9-inches across. As true with other hibiscus blooms only last a day. On day two, however, you are left with a bight chartreuse star-shaped calyx. Expect your plants to reach 4- to 5-feet tall, and as wide. It is a profuse bloomer as every flush growth gives dozens of more bloom. I have three, and in all locations, they are dynamic; doing great in any soil type.

The last few years, there has been a multitude of new, hardy hibiscus, not only hitting the market but winning awards, too. When you look at a tropical hibiscus blooming on your deck or patio, it is easy to conjure up visions of the Caribbean and the sounds of a steel band. Today's perennial hibiscus varieties will do the same.

Think about how you can use perennial hibiscus in the tropical landscape. Create an exotic look with large bananas growing behind one of these shrubs, or plant a yellow bush form allamanda as a perfect companion. Hibiscuses belong in the landscape whether combined with bananas, cannas, or another tropical plant.

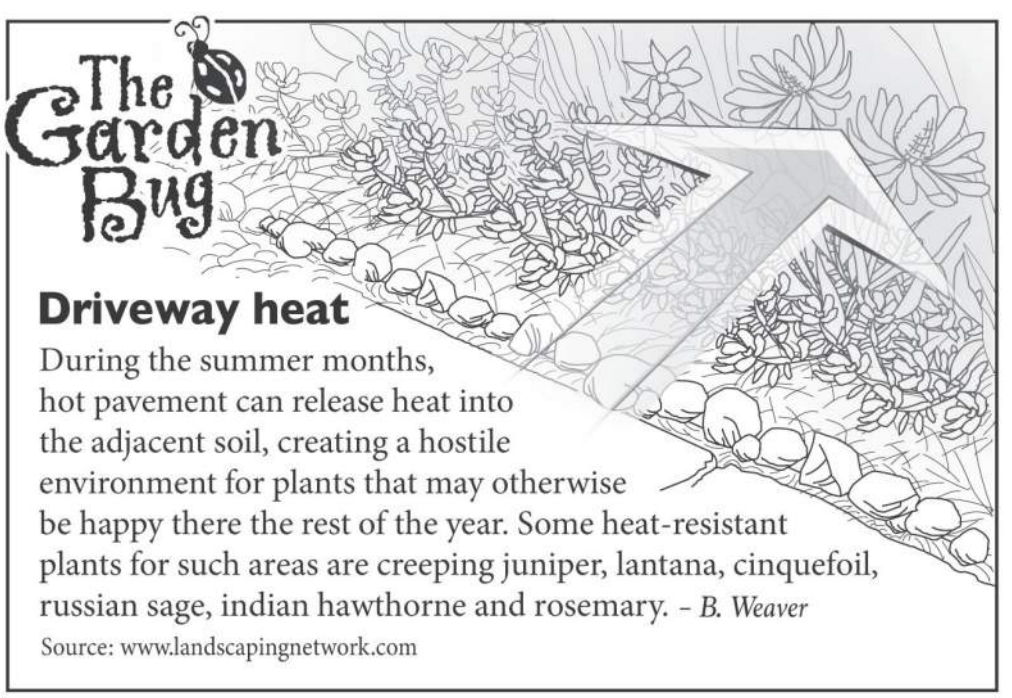
In my garden, I am using them as the backdrop to a habitat of pollinators. Perennial hibiscus will bring in bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds and one of the best traits is, they are resistant to deer. So, my companions are various salvias, Agastache or anise hyssop, coreopsis, and rudbeckias.

Their requirements are much like those of other annuals. Whether you choose the perennial or tropical types, plant in well-drained, well-prepared beds and use a good layer of mulch to keep the soil evenly moist through the season. Drying out during bloom season leads to unhappy results.

When I say hardy hibiscus, I mean they will be perennial from zones 4-9 which means most of the country can relish in their beauty. Choose a site with plenty of sunlight. Morning sun and filtered afternoon light are just about perfect. The hibiscus blooms on new growth, so it is important to keep it growing vigorously throughout the season. Keep them well-fed and watered during droughty periods.

You will not need a super-bloom fertilizer however, just use a slow-release, balanced fertilizer applied in regular small monthly applications. Water daily during the summer if you are growing Holy Grail or any other perennial hibiscus in containers. Nutrients will quickly leach from the soil, so apply a dilute, water-soluble fertilizer weekly or add controlled release granules per label recommendation.

Summerific Holy Grail will steal the show in your summer garden, but you won't need the law enforcement. Just know that your friends and visitors may stay a little longer gawking at the beauty of the flowers.


The Garden Bug
Driveway heat
During the summer months, hot pavement can release heat into the adjacent soil, creating a hostile environment for plants that may otherwise be happy there the rest of the year. Some heat-resistant plants for such areas are creeping juniper, lantana, cinquefoil, russian sage, indian hawthorne and rosemary. – B. Weaver
Source: www.landscapingnetwork.com

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Life & Style

AP: Women accuse opera legend Domingo of sexual harassment

In this Friday, July 12, 2019, photo, Placido Domingo speaks during a news conference about his upcoming show "Giovanna d'Arco" in Madrid, Spain. AP

By JOCELYN GECKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

For decades, Placido Domingo, one of the most celebrated and powerful men in opera, has tried to pressure women into sexual relationships by dangling jobs and then sometimes punishing the women professionally when they refused his advances, numerous accusers told The Associated Press.

Regarded as one of the greatest opera singers of all time, Domingo also is a prolific conductor and the director of the Los Angeles Opera. The multiple Grammy winner is an immensely respected figure in his rarefied world, described by colleagues as a man of prodigious charm and energy who works tirelessly to promote his art form.

At 78, Domingo still attracts sellout crowds around the globe and continues adding to the 150 roles he has sung in 4,000-plus performances, more than any opera singer in history.

But his accusers and others in the industry say there is a troubling side to Domingo—one they say has long been an open secret in the opera world.

Eight singers and a dancer have told the AP that they were sexually harassed by the long-married, Spanish-born superstar in encounters that took place over three decades beginning in the late 1980s, at venues that included opera companies where he held top managerial positions.

One accuser said Domingo stuck his hand down her skirt and three others said he forced wet kisses on their lips—in a dressing room, a hotel room and at a lunch meeting.

"A business lunch is not strange," said one of the singers. "Somebody trying to hold your hand during a business lunch is strange—or putting their hand on your knee is a little strange. He was always touching you in some way, and always kissing you."

In addition to the nine accusers, a half-dozen other women told the AP that suggestive overtures by Domingo made them uncomfortable, including one singer who said he repeatedly asked her out on dates after hiring her to sing a series of concerts with him in the 1990s.

The AP also spoke to almost three dozen other singers, dancers, orchestra musicians, members of backstage staff, voice teachers and an administrator who said they witnessed inappropriate sexually tinged behavior by Domingo and that he pursued younger women with impunity.

Domingo did not respond to detailed questions from the AP about specific incidents, but issued a statement saying: "The allegations from these unnamed individuals dating back as many as thirty years are deeply troubling, and as presented, inaccurate.

"Still, it is painful to hear that I may have upset anyone or made them feel uncomfortable—no matter how long ago and despite my best intentions. I believed that all of my interactions and relationships were always welcomed and consensual. People who know me or who have worked with me know that I am not someone who would intentionally harm, offend, or embarrass anyone.

"However, I recognize that the rules and standards by which we are—and should be—measured against today are very different than they were in the past. I am blessed and privileged to have had a more than 50-year career in opera and will hold myself to the highest standards."

Seven of the nine accusers told the AP they feel their careers were adversely impacted after rejecting Domingo's advances, with some saying that roles he promised never materialized and several noting that while they went on to work with other companies, they were never hired to work with him again.

Only one of the nine women would allow her name to be used—Patricia Wulf, a mezzo-soprano who sang with Domingo at the Washington Opera. The others requested anonymity, saying they either still work in the business and feared reprisals or worried they might be publicly humiliated and even harassed.

The accusers' stories lay out strikingly similar patterns of behavior that included Domingo persistently contacting them—often calling them repeatedly at home late at night—expressing interest in their careers and urging them to meet him privately for a drink or a meal, or at his apartment or hotel room, under the guise of offering professional advice.

None of the women could offer documentation, such as phone messages, but the AP spoke to many colleagues and friends who they confided in. In addition, the AP independently verified that the women worked where they said they did and that Domingo overlapped with them at those locations.

The AP has withheld certain details in cases where it could lead to identification of the accuser.

Two of the women said they briefly gave in to Domingo's advances, feeling they couldn't risk jeopardizing their careers by saying no to the most powerful man in their profession.

One of them said she had sex with him twice, including at the Biltmore hotel in Los Angeles. When Domingo left for a performance, the woman said, he put $10 on the dresser, saying, "I don't want you to feel like a prostitute, but I also don't want you to have to pay to park."

In Loving Memory
†Freddy Untalan Hofschneider, Jr.
Lovingly known as "Ding"
Born to Life: October 2, 1963
Called to Life: August 3, 2019
†Freddy will be greeted at the gates of heaven by:
Daughter: †Elena Martina Rokop Hofschneider
Parents: †Freddy Villagomez Hofschneider, Sr. & †Maria Untalan Hofschneider
Mother-in-Law: †Carmina C. Rokop
Sister: †Carmen Hofschneider Salas
Brother-in-Law: †Reko R. Rokop
Grandparents: †Henry Gikabai Hofschneider & †Ana Villagomez Hofschneider
†Juan Adriano Untalan & †Elena Cruz Untalan
His loving memories will live in the hearts of:
Wife: Rinenta Rokop Hofschneider
Children: Thalia R. Hofschneider & Cliff B. Sablan (Mason, Mariano, Elena)
Freddy U. Hofschneider III & Vinalynn Dlg. Duenas
Derek R. & Chelsie M. Hofschneider
Luis R. Hofschneider & Lilly Ann P. Sablan
Reared Daughter: Vahnia M. Rokop
Father-in-Law: Deacon Roke M. Rokop
Siblings: Helen H. & Alejandro A. Abayare & family
†Carmen H. & Mark F. Salas & family
Henry U. Hofschneider & family
Frances H. & Francisco D. Diaz & family
Maria H. & Michael A. Aguon & family
Jovita H. & Damon Ingram & family
Jennifer U. Hofschneider-Pettis & family
Siblings-in-Law: Jack R. Rokop
†Reko R. Rokop & family
Joseph R. Rokop
Andrew R. Rokop
Stephen R. & Jocelyn Rokop & family
Anunsa R. & Philip Phylon & family
Ignacio R. Rokop
Our beloved †Freddy will be arriving on Tinian on Monday, August 19, 2019, at 10:30 am. He will be brought to the Tinian Health Center morgue. Final rosary will immediately follow.
On Tuesday, August 20, 2019, at 7:00 am, he will be brought to San Jose Church, Tinian, to be followed by responso and rosary. Last respects may be paid from 7:30 am to 10:00 am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am. Interment services will immediately follow at the San Jose Public Cemetery where he will be laid in his final resting place with his daughter, †Elena Martina.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to San Jose Church Rebuilding Funds, in care of the Hofschneider Family, P.O. Box 109, Tinian, MP 96952.
Si Yu'us Maase, Oloomway, Thank you,
The Family

Lil Nas X's viral song sets more records on Billboard charts

NEW YORK (AP)—Lil Nas X is galloping his way to two new records on the Billboard charts thanks to the massive success of "Old Town Road."

The song that beat out Mariah Carey and "Despacito" to become the longest-running No. 1 hit in the history of the Hot 100 chart has now set records on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop songs and Hot rap songs charts, respectively.

"Old Town Road," which features Billy Ray Cyrus and is spending its 19th week at No. 1, surpasses the record set by Drake's "One Dance" on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart. Drake's track spent 18 weeks at No.1.

On the Hot rap songs chart, where Lil Nas X's county-rap tune is also spending its 19th week on top, the 20-year-old beats the record set by Drake's "Hotline Bling," Iggy Azalea's "Fancy" and Missy Elliott's "Hot Boyz." The latter three songs each spent 18 weeks at No.1.

Last month Lil Nas X's viral song became the most successful No. 1 song of all-time when it reached its 17th week at No. 1 on the all-genre Hot 100 chart—Billboard's main chart for singles—surpassing the 16-week record held by Carey and Boyz II Men's "One Sweet Day" and Luis Fonsi, Daddy Yankee and Justin Bieber's "Despacito."

"Old Town Road" is now spending its 19th week on top of the Hot 100 chart.

Lil Nas X's song, which has achieved most of its success through audio streaming, was originally a solo song but he added Cyrus to the track. The song also has remix versions featuring Diplo, Young Thug, Mason Ramsey and BTS, and Billboard counts the original song and its remixes as one when calculating chart position, thus helping "Old Town Road" stay on top.

n a Sunday, June 23, 2019 file photo, Lil Nas X poses in the press room at the BET Awards, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. AP

'A waterfall of love': Woodstock memories 50 years later

By MICHAEL HILL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BETHEL, N.Y. (AP)—They helicoptered over crowds into the Woodstock festival and hiked in past abandoned cars. They danced at dawn on a muddy hillside and dodged drenching rain. They barely slept, phoned Mom to say they were OK and marveled at their sheer numbers. They left behind sodden socks and sleeping bags, but gained an enduring sense of community.

Fifty years later, memories of the anarchic weekend of Aug. 15-18, 1969, remains sharp among people who were in the crowd and on the stage for the historic festival.

Woodstock was staged 80 miles (130 kilometers) northwest of New York City on a bucolic hillside owned by dairy farmer Max Yasgur. It was a great spot for peaceful vibes, but miserable for handling the hordes coming in by car.

Rock photographer Henry Diltz got to the site early during the setup: "All these hippie carpenters were sawing and hammering, building this huge plywood deck right at the bottom of this big, green hillside. It was like being on an aircraft carrier. The green alfalfa was waving in the breeze ... It was all wonderful. It was like summer camp ... And then suddenly one day there were people sitting up there on the hillside and at first I thought, 'What the hell are they doing up there?' and then 'Oh yeah, right, I forgot. There's going to be (a concert).'"

Ilene Marder, an 18-year-old traveling up from the Bronx: "People were abandoning their cars—not on the side of the road, but ON the road ... I was very responsible then, 'You can't just leave your car in the middle of the road!' But everyone did ... There was an immediate sense that something was happening that never happened before."

Singer Nancy Nevin's band, Sweetwater, was supposed to open Woodstock, but they got caught in traffic: "We got out of the car and kind of glared at each other. And there was no one in charge. You have to remember that everything about Woodstock being chaos is the truth ... Some guy was running around with a t-shirt and walkie-talkie, and he looked like he knew what he was doing. We talked to that guy and he said, 'Well, I'm going to ask for helicopters.'"

The enduring story of Woodstock is that more than 400,000 people jammed into an area of about a square mile without a disaster.

Nancy Nevins first saw the crowd from a helicopter: "It didn't even look like a crowd. It looked like a carpet. It didn't even look like people, it was a big spread, multi-colored as far as you can see. And Alex (Del Zoppo, Sweetwater's keyboardist) says to the pilot, 'What are those crops, man?' And he laughed and said, 'Those aren't crops, dude, those are people.'"

5 myths about Woodstock

By MICHAEL HILL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woodstock is surrounded by myths, legends and misperceptions. Here's the real story about five of them.

1 WOODSTOCK WAS NOT HELD AT WOODSTOCK

It made sense that co-organizer Michael Lang wanted to have the concert in Woodstock. The Catskill Mountains town was already known for being an artists' colony and Bob Dylan's rural hideaway. But key people in the town wanted no part of the concert. The festival was going to be held a bit south of Woodstock at an old industrial site in Wallkill, New York. But those plans fell through about a month before the show, sending Lang scrambling to find a new site. He was driving through farm country in Bethel, New York, when he spied a gently sloping alfalfa field. He struck a deal with the farmer, Max Yasgur.

2 THE NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY STAYED OPEN

"The New York State Thruway is closed, man," Arlo Guthrie famously announced from the festival stage. Not exactly. Police closed at least one thruway exit east of the festival to stem the source of a blockbuster traffic jam around the site. How bad were the roads? The New York Daily News reported on Aug. 16, 1969, that cars were being delayed by as much as eight hours between New York City and the concert site — a distance of less than 100 miles.

3 BABIES WERE (SORT OF) BORN AT WOODSTOCK

This one could be true depending on how you define "at Woodstock." The concert's medical director told reporters at the scene of the festival that there were two births: one at a local hospital after the mother was flown out by helicopter; the other in a car caught in traffic. Wade Lawrence, the director of what is now the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts at the festival site, recently confirmed the helicopter story with the medevac pilot, who said the mother gave birth at the hospital.

4 MAX YASGUR WAS NOT A COUNTRY BUMPKIN

Yasgur told the young crowd massed on his field he was a farmer not used to speaking to groups. Self-deprecation aside, he ran a large dairy operation with a large herd, trucks and its own plant. Nephew Marty Miller said that he warned his uncle months earlier that Woodstock's organizers might come knocking, and that Yasgur was ready when it happened. Lang in his memoir describes Yasgur as a "sharp guy." Miller said that beyond rent money, Yasgur benefited from improvements to the field, such as wells. "Max was an astute businessman, very sharp. He was nobody's fool," Miller said.

5 WOODSTOCK WAS NOT EXACTLY THREE DAYS OF PEACE AND MUSIC

The famous concert poster with a bird perched on a guitar neck advertised "three days of peace and music," spanning from Aug. 15-17. There was undisputedly music at Woodstock, and many attendees reportedly spent the weekend blissed out. But Woodstock lasted more than three days. Thanks to delays, it bled into the morning of Aug. 18. Jimi Hendrix came on stage after the sun came up, after a large portion of the crowd had left.

Cosby lawyers ask appeals court to toss #MeToo conviction

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania appeals court on Monday questioned why actor Bill Cosby never got a supposed non-prosecution agreement in writing as his lawyers asked the panel to overturn his sexual assault conviction.

Cosby, 82, is serving a three- to 10-year prison term for drugging and molesting a woman at his home in what became the first celebrity trial of the #MeToo era.

The three-judge panel asked why Cosby's top-shelf lawyers didn't follow the norm and get an immunity agreement in writing, and approved by a judge, when accuser Andrea Constand first came forward in 2005.

"This is not a low-budget operation. ... They had an unlimited budget," said Superior Court Judge John T. Bender. "Could it be they knew this was something the trial court would never have allowed?"

Cosby's lawyers have long argued that he relied on the promise before giving testimony in Constand's 2005 lawsuit that proved incriminating when it was unsealed a decade later.

Judge Carolyn Nichols echoed Bender's point, asking, "how can the elected district attorney bind that office in perpetuity?"

Cosby's lawyers also attacked Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill's decision to let five other accusers testify when Cosby went on trial last year, after more than 60 accusers came forward and his deposition was unsealed. Prosecutors said they chose women whose accounts showed that Cosby had a "signature" crime pattern. Bender seemed to agree, interrupting defense arguments that their stories had significant differences.

Alanis Morissette announces birth of son

Morissette

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Morissette-Treadway house has a new addition: singer Alanis Morissette has given birth to her third child, a son.

The Grammy winner announced the arrival of her son, Winter Mercy, on Instagram on Monday. The post included a black-and-white photo of the boy snuggled peacefully in a blanket.

The newborn is Morissette's third child with her husband, rapper Mario Treadway. The couple has another son, 8-year-old Ever Imrie, and a 2-year-old daughter, Onyx Solace.

The 45-year-old singer-songwriter first revealed her pregnancy on Instagram in March.

Freed inmate Cyntoia Brown marries recording artist J. Long

Brown

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Cyntoia Brown, an inmate recently released on clemency after being given a life sentence at the age of 16, has married recording artist J. Long, formerly associated with the R&B group Pretty Ricky.

Wes Yoder, a representative for Brown-Long, the name she now goes by, confirmed Monday that the two had wed, but declined to provide more details, only saying that more would be revealed in the fall. Brown's book, "Free Cyntoia," is scheduled for release Oct. 15 through Atria Books.

Brown-Long was released on probation last week after getting clemency. Her case drew the attention of celebrities like Kim Kardashian West, Rihanna, Snoop Dogg and LeBron James, who lobbied on her behalf.

Brown-Long has said she was a sex trafficking victim at the time she killed a man in 2004. Now 31, Brown will remain on parole for 10 years, on condition that she does not violate any state or federal laws, holds a job and participates in regular counseling sessions, under conditions set by former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam.

Pretty Ricky, which originated in Florida, is known for their 2006 single, "Grind With Me," which hit No. 7 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart.

Finally, Missy Elliott will receive MTV Video Vanguard Award

NEW YORK (AP)—Missy Elliott, one of the most iconic players in the history of music videos, will receive the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award at the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards.

MTV announced Monday that Elliott will also perform on Aug. 26 at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

Since her debut video for "The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)" in 1997, where she sported an inflated trash bag with confidence and charisma, Elliott has been a powerhouse on the music video scene with an oddball, eccentric and creative style that's inspired generations after her.

Her upcoming performance on the VMA stage will mark her first since 2003.

Elliott became the first female rapper inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame earlier this year.

AP

This June 13, 2019, file photo shows Missy Elliott speaking at the 50th annual Songwriters Hall of Fame induction and awards ceremony in New York.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Tom Hanks reads audio for Ann Patchett's new novel

NEW YORK (AP)—The audio edition of Ann Patchett's new novel has a voice that listeners should find familiar: Tom Hanks. HarperAudio announced Monday that the Oscar-winning actor is narrating Patchett's "The Dutch House," which comes out September 24. The book is a multigenerational story centered on siblings Danny and Maeve, and told from Danny's point of view. Patchett told The Associated Press in a recent email that she and Hanks have become friendly over the past few years. She interviewed him in Washington, D.C., when he was promoting his book of stories, "Uncommon Type." He and his wife, Rita Wilson, have also met with Patchett in Nashville, where she runs Parnassus Books. Hanks has narrated audiobooks before, including "Uncommon Type" and Stephen Colbert's "I Am a Pole (And So Can You!)"

Apple releases teaser for 'The Morning Show'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Apple is giving a first look at its upcoming web television series that is centered on a behind-the-scenes view of early morning TV news. The company posted a teaser Monday of "The Morning Show." It stars Reese Witherspoon, Jennifer Aniston and Steve Carell and is set to debut will debut this fall on AppleTV+.Apple's new original video subscription service will feature original shows, movies and documentaries without ads and will be available on demand.

VetsAid to feature ZZ Top, Brad Paisley, Sheryl Crow

HOUSTON (AP)—Joe Walsh will be joined by ZZ Top, Brad Paisley, Sheryl Crow, and Jason Isbell and The 400 Unit at his VetsAid music festival to benefit veterans. The award-winning musician announced Monday that tickets for the Nov. 10 concert at the Toyota Center in Houston will go on sale Friday. In its first two years, net proceeds have allowed VetsAid to disburse nearly $1.2 million in grants. Grants this year will go to Houston-area organizations. In a statement, Walsh says "all are welcome to celebrate the things that unite us as Americans: good friends, open hearts and great music!" Walsh's father died while stationed on Okinawa, Japan, when the musician was 20 months old. He offers free guitar lessons to wounded veterans at Walter Reed National Medical Center, outside Washington.

'black-ish' creator Kenya Barris divorcing wife of 20 years

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kenya Barris, creator of the sitcom "black-ish," has filed for divorce from his wife of 20 years, Dr. Rania "Rainbow" Barris.

Los Angeles Superior Court documents show that Kenya Barris filed to end the marriage on Friday, his 45th birthday.

Kenya Barris, who also produced the "black-ish" spinoff "grown-ish" and co-wrote the film "Girls Trip," and Rania Barris, an anesthesiologist, married in 1999 and have six kids.

Rania Barris previously filed for divorce in 2014, but the couple reconciled and withdrew the request a year later.

The married couple on "black-ish" played by Anthony Anderson and Tracee Ellis Ross is loosely based on the Barrises, and Kenya Barris has said in interviews that the recent relationship struggles seen on the show have reflected his own.

Girlfriend loses self-esteem when addict betrays her trust

DEAR ABBY: I've been with my boyfriend, "Rocko," for two years, but in the late months of last year, he became distant. He would disappear for days at a time, block my phone number and ignore me. I was sure he was seeing another woman or taking drugs because he is an ex-addict.

Two months ago, he was arrested. I was right—Rocko was on drugs and had been hanging out with another woman. Like any man who's caught, he swears she was "just someone to get high with" and nothing happened between them. It has destroyed my self-esteem. I hate myself, and I can't stop wondering why I wasn't enough.

Rocko is currently in rehab and seems to be doing wonderfully. I have asked him a lot of questions and said I needed him to be truthful. So far he has been honest. However, he still denies anything happened between them.

He says he wants to save our relationship and start a new life together now that he's clean. How do I do this? I don't trust him! I'm already doubting everything he says and does. I know he needs to earn my trust back, but how do I let that happen? How do I even begin to forgive him for everything he has done to us?

JUMBLE OF EMOTIONS IN KENTUCKY

DEAR JUMBLE: You wrote that the way Rocko treated you has destroyed your self-esteem. Work on rebuilding it, and once you have done that, ask yourself why you should continue to be involved with someone as unstable as this man.

Disappearing for days at a time, blocking your number and ignoring you when you reach out is brutal. It is abusive. Rocko has been around this track before and may again. If you don't have it in you to stay and see this through to a possibly positive conclusion, end the relationship.

DEAR ABBY: My neighbor regularly goes around gardening in her yard wearing yoga pants with huge tears in the inner thighs and an even bigger hole in the crotch. You can't miss it because she bends over, and stays bent over, for significant quantities of time while she is weeding. Her behind is frequently aimed in the direction of my house and yard.

Abby, you could fit both hands in that hole, and it stretches wide over her pear-shaped rear end! I have kids, and her other close neighbors have kids even younger than mine.

The first time I saw her, I gave her the benefit of the doubt and assumed the tears were recent. But she wears this same pair of indecent pants every time she goes out to garden. Today, when I looked out my dining room window, there she was bent over, flashing her derriere, with a hole in her underwear right where the holes in her pants were.

She isn't poor. She spends lots of money on her garden and updating her house every year. This woman is in her 60s, semi-retired, and loves nothing more than to call the police and the city code enforcement people on any neighbor she dislikes, so I can't talk to her about it because I'm afraid she'll retaliate. Should I send her an anonymous letter asking her to buy new pants?

EXPOSED OUT THERE

DEAR EXPOSED: No. Tell her calmly that you are concerned about your children and ask her to please wear something less "revealing." However, if she refuses, install a hedge to shield you from the view. And practice your "look away" skills.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

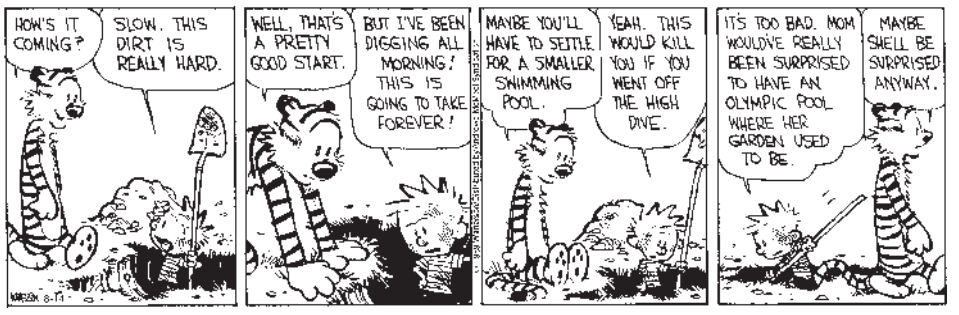
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

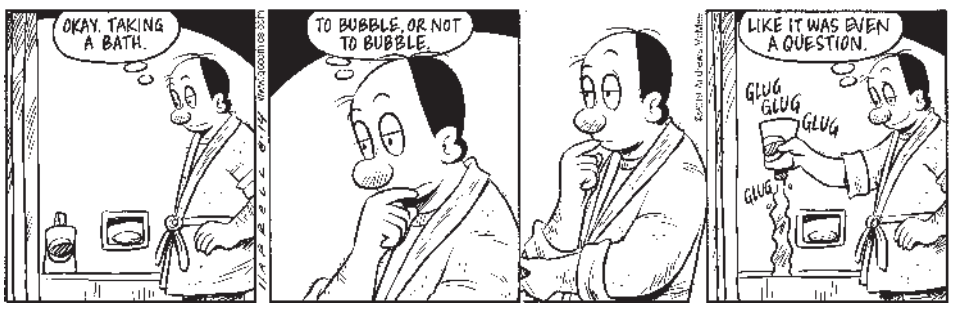

HOW'S IT COMING?
SLOW. THIS DIRT IS REALLY HARD.
WELL, THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD START.
BUT I'VE BEEN DIGGING ALL MORNING! THIS IS GOING TO TAKE FOREVER!
MAYBE YOU'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR A SMALLER SWIMMING POOL.
YEAH. THIS WOULD KILL YOU IF YOU WENT OFF THE HIGH DIVE.
IT'S TOO BAD MOM WOULDN'T REALLY BEEN SURPRISED TO HAVE AN OLYMPIC POOL WHERE HER GARDEN USED TO BE.
MAYBE SHE'LL BE SURPRISED ANYWAY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

OH, LOOK- BALONEY MARKED "MANAGER'S SPECIAL."
You REALIZE THAT "MANAGER'S SPECIAL" MEANS IT'S ONLY ONE DAY AWAY FROM BECOMING HAZARDOUS WASTE, RIGHT?
THEN BALONEY SANDWICHES FOR DINNER IT IS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Young bloke
4 Score units (Abbr.)
7 Pottery oven
8 Magna —
10 Pago Pago's place
11 Whoever
13 Boisterous quarrel
16 ICU pros
17 Beethoven's "Für — "
18 Privy
19 "Hey, you!"
20 Hide
21 Actress Garbo
23 Blazing
25 Dutch word that means "farmer"
26 Curved molding
27 Wagerers' site (Abbr.)
28 Plus
30 Early hrs.
33 Skeptic's question
36 Lady Liberty, e.g.
37 Snag
38 Kagan of the Supreme Court
39 Rocker Clapton
40 Old PC component
41 Calendar abbr.

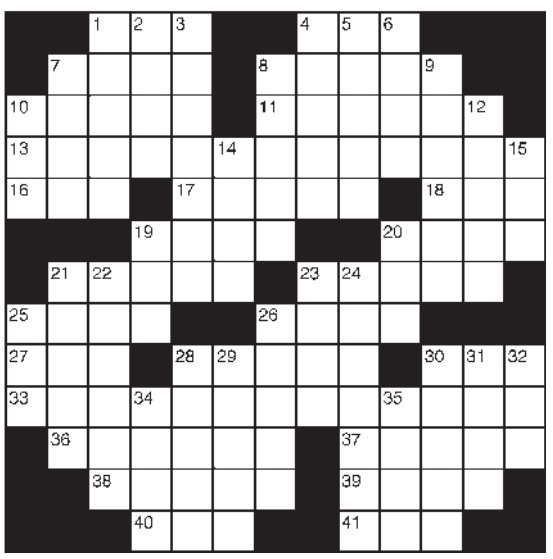
DOWN

1 Long rides?
2 Slugger Moises
3 "CSI" procedure
4 Hunger signals
5 "Let's hear it"
6 Ancient portico
7 Madeline of "Blazing Saddles"
8 "Be quiet!"
9 Elk's horn
10 Old map letters
12 Paris school
14 "Casablanca" role
15 Stolen
19 Part of MPH
20 Picnic dessert
21 Barbarians
22 Money-back dea
23 Writer James
24 Retrieved
25 Fiddle stick
26 Milo of "The Verdict"
28 Fall flower
29 Daredevil's feat
30 Top story
31 Nero's 1,300
32 "Keep it down!"
34 Body powder
35 Suffix for million

Solution time: 23 mins.

C	A	P	P			E	A	L		A	L	V	A
C	B	C	=			V	W	S		L	A	I	C
D	E	C	O			E	L	E	G	A	N	C	E
E	L	C	P	E	R	S		A	R	K	I	N
				L	A	Y		A	R	M			
F		L	E	T		E	L	Y	S	I	A	N
C	L	I				A	G	C			C	R	Y
E	L	U	D	I	N	G		S	A	U	C	E
				A	A	S		E	E	N			
P	S	A	L	M		E	L	A	I	N	E	S
E	L	I		I	S	I	S		M	A		I
R	E	D	O			A	R	I		A	N	K	A
E	D	E	N			W	E	E		L	A	S	T

Yesterday's answer 8-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mila Kunis, 36; Halle Berry, 53; Jackee Harry, 63; Steve Martin, 74.

Happy Birthday: A simple, moderate and steady pace forward will lead you to what you need to help you gain greater stability and less stress. Refuse to let emotional situations take over and interfere with what soothes your soul. You cannot please everyone, but you can take care of matters that will make your life better. Follow your heart, and good things will transpire. Your numbers are 7, 18 23, 24, 31, 37, 44

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* When you least expect it, something that interests you will come your way. Look into the possibility of starting something new and exciting that uses skills, experience and talents you haven't used for a while. New opportunities will arise. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Confusion will set in if you have too many choices. If overwhelmed, take a wait-and-see attitude. Don't let someone you love coerce you into something you don't want to do or cannot afford. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* If you don't like something or you think information being offered is wrong, say something. Look out for your interests, and say no to anyone trying to take advantage of you. Your personal life, love and family should be your top priorities. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* When it comes to your finances, you need to be diligent regarding your spending habits. Avoid point-of-purchase sales and salespeople who are pushy and eager to take advantage of you. Discipline will be required. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* If something isn't right, address issues before they spin out of control. Ask questions, clarify what you mean and leave nothing to chance. Precision will be what keeps you on track and anyone who wants to cause a problem at a distance. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to let anyone talk you into something you don't need or want. Do your own thing, and let others do as they please. The less interference, the more you will achieve. Stay focused on your goals, and positive change will unfold. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Offering help is admirable, but don't take on more than you can handle. A change shouldn't be taken lightly. If you don't agree with what's being done or asked of you, say so and decline to get involved. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Problems will mount if you get into an emotional discussion with someone who doesn't share your beliefs. Arguing and revenge are wastes of time, but your success will be an excellent way to deal with an adversary. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Set your plans in motion. If you believe in your ability and trust in what you know, you will bypass anyone trying to mislead you or stand in your way. Personal improvements and romance are encouraged. 4 stars

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Emotional spending will not make you feel better. If you want to make changes at home or to the way you live, be responsible and lower your debt. Don't be fooled by someone offering you a get-rich-quick scheme. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Your emotions will be difficult to control. Look for positive outlets for your time and energy, and stick to people you know you can count on to lend a helping hand. A joint venture or partnership looks promising. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* What you do for others will be honorable, but that doesn't mean you should let anyone take advantage of you. Do only what is within your means. Taking on something that causes stress or creates a problem should be declined. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, sensitive and changeable. You are resourceful and playful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9	1			5	8	
	6				4			
3				8				
4				9				
5				3				
8	1	3			7	2	4	
9			4		1			2
6			5		2			1
	5	1				9	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	9	6	3	8	2	7	5	1
5	3	2	7	4	1	8	9	6
1	8	7	6	5	9	3	4	2
7	2	9	5	1	4	6	8	3
6	4	5	8	2	3	1	7	9
8	1	3	9	6	7	5	2	4
2	6	1	4	7	8	9	3	5
3	7	4	1	9	5	2	6	8
9	5	8	2	3	6	4	1	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TASKS OF A TALK SHOW HOST Solution: 9 letters

E	N	E	D	O	S	I	P	E	C	N	A	N	I	F
L	O	E	G	A	T	S	T	E	N	E	R	G	Y	U
U	I	H	O	S	T	O	T	H	C	Q	S	Ⓔ	T	N
D	N	E	U	U	M	Y	G	N	G	P	Ⓥ	I	I	D
E	I	R	D	O	R	E	E	E	E	Ⓘ	E	N	L	R
H	P	I	R	O	N	I	G	A	Ⓛ	T	N	T	A	A
C	O	P	T	R	D	A	K	T	C	V	N	R	E	I
S	T	S	E	U	G	E	S	S	T	I	I	O	R	S
S	N	N	A	N	M	A	T	R	O	P	S	D	C	E
U	E	I	E	I	C	R	O	M	U	H	I	U	E	L
C	W	M	T	D	A	T	N	E	M	M	O	C	M	O
S	S	Y	A	D	M	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	O	R
I	A	O	I	G	E	S	I	V	O	R	P	M	I	N
D	R	O	S	C	R	I	P	T	A	B	L	O	I	D
B	E	V	I	T	A	E	R	C	O	M	E	D	Y	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Money Bag

Treasuries 13 through 18 and 20 through 34 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CFPJ Corporation
(18) Maintenance
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$8.33/per hr.

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email: cfpjcorp.2014@yahoo.com

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Location: Tottotville
3 bedrooms/1 bathroom
Semi furnished

For more information, please call
Pam Seman at 483-0678
or 483-9080.

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1 CHEF AND HEAD COOK
starting salary $13.87 to $19.00

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pls call 233-3372
email: mabang1521@gmail.com

BE TO CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 General Manager
1 Human Resources Specialist
5 Maintenance & Repair
Workers General
1 Furniture Finishers
1 Marketing Manager

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(30) **CARPENTER/LABOR** $9.76 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help carpenters by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas, machines, or equipment, to maintain a clean and safe job site. Fasten timbers or lumber with glue, screws, pegs, or nails and install hardware. Perform tie spacing layout and measure, mark, drill or cut. Select tools, equipment, or materials from storage and transport items to work site. Drill holes in timbers or lumber.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(4) **CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN** 14.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of engineering staff or physical scientists. Calculate dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications, and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications. Confer with supervisor to determine project details such as plan preparation, acceptance testing, and evaluation of field conditions. Analyze proposed site factors and design maps, graphs, tracings, and diagrams to illustrate findings.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk;
- Knowledge in practical application of Engineering Science and Technology

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Environmental Health and Safety Manager** $10. 65 to 10.65 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Review, evaluate, and analyze work environments and design programs and procedures to control, eliminate, and prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, and biological agents or ergonomic factors. May conduct inspections and enforce adherence to laws and regulations governing the health and safety of individuals. May be employed in the public or private sector. Includes environmental protection officers. Order suspension of activities that pose threats to workers' health or safety. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Recommend measures to help protect workers from potentially hazardous work methods, processes, or materials. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Develop or maintain hygiene programs, such as noise surveys, continuous atmosphere monitoring, ventilation surveys, or asbestos management plans.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree;
- At least 24 months experience in safety standards;
- Must possess various safety training certificates.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Interior Designer** - $8.48 to 9.32 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings. Formulate design which is practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise, or improving life style. May specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design. Design plans to be safe and to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Coordinate with other professionals, such as contractors, architects, engineers, and lumbers, to ensure job success. Inspect construction work on site to ensure its adherence to the design plans. Use computer-aided drafting (CAD) and related software to produce construction documents. Advise client on interior design factors such as space planning, layout and use of furnishings or equipment, and color coordination.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's Degree;
At least 24 months experience;
Must have knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in the production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) **MATERIAL CONTROL MANAGER** $9.02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for the purpose of keeping relevant records. Duties are primarily clerical by nature. Manage, collect and keep record of samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type, weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to maintain shipping, receiving, and production records and files. Weigh or measure materials, equipment, or products to maintain relevant records, using volume meters, scales, rules, or calipers. Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts, subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages, using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.

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(02) **STEEL WORKERS** $14.53 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope. Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Warehouse worker** - $7.93 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive, store, and issue materials, equipment, and other items from stockroom, warehouse, or storage yard. Keep records and compile stock reports. Pack and unpack items to be stocked on shelves in stockrooms, warehouses, or storage yards. Store items in an orderly and accessible manner in warehouses, tool rooms, supply rooms, or other areas. Examine and inspect stock items for wear or defects, reporting any damage to supervisors. Receive and count stock items, and record data manually or using a computer. Mark stock items using identification tags, stamps, electric marking tools, or other labeling equipment.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Graduate;
At least 12 months experience;
Must have knowledge in the inventory of construction materials and tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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YCO Corporation is looking for the following position:

Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
Knowledge in equipment maintenance, repairing, troubleshooting, equipment selection or determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job. Physically fit, with valid drivers license. Must be at least 24 months work related experience with high school diploma. Salary: $8.11 to 9.00/hr. Monday to Friday, 36hr/week, 7 hrs/day. This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opening intent to fill.

Accounting Associate
Atleast 24 months work related experience with High School Diploma, Proficient in microsoft software programs and accounting software such as quick book and peachtree. Knowledge on US generally accepted accounting principles. Comply with Federal State and company policies procedures and Regulations. Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and tables pertaining to such cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payables procedures. Proficient in the English language (verbal, written and reading). Active listening, critical thinking. With Certificate of employment. The required employment certificate will be applied equally to both U.S. workers and CW workers. Salary: $9.87/hr, 36 hrs./week, 7 hrs./day. From Monday to Friday. This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opportunity intent to fill with this position.

Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver
Required commercial driver license, physically fit with truck driver certificate. Knowledge in record operational or production data, record service or repair activities. Atleast 12 months work related experience with High School Diploma. Salary: $8.00/hr. /hr.36 hrs./week,6 hrs./day Monday to Saturday This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opportunity intent to fill with this position.

Auto Mechanics/Technician
At least 24 months working related experience with High School diploma. Knowledge in repairing, troubleshooting opertation and control, ability of critical thinking and judgement and decision making. Knowledge in sales and marketing of automotive items. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their design, uses, repair and maintenance. Knowledge in customer and personal service. Must have a updated drivers license, physically fit with auto mechanic certificate equal to both US worker and CW-1 worker. Salary: $8.02 to 8.30/hr, 36hr per week, 7 hrs./day. Monday to Friday. This job opportunity is temporary, full time position. There is one (1) job opening the employer to fill.

Applicant may submit application to 2nd flr Yumul bldg. Mnsgr Guerrero Rd Chalan Kiya Saipan MP 96950 or email to ycocorporationlabor@yahoo.com. From Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Tel (670)233-3112/3.

YCO Corporation is looking for the following position:

Hardware Sales Associate
Qualification Requirements: Knowledge of business and management involve customer service, production methods, Knowledge in computer system. e.g data base, word, excel, rock solid, POS and other computer software. Familiar Hardware products. Good in oral comprehension, sales and marketing. 12 months work related experience with High School diploma. Salary: $8.57/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deductions all required by CNMI and Federal Law. From Mon-Sat. 36 hr/week 6 hr/day.

Office Supervisor
Qualification Requirements: Knowledge in Computer systems and Electronics such as peach tree, rock solid, microsoft excel, word, access, power point, data base and computer system. Knowledge of business management involve in strategic planning, human resources, leadership technique, production method. Good in customer and personal service. Ability in oral comprehension & expression and written comprehension. With Employment Certificate as office supervisor. Employment certificate will be applied equally to both U.S. Workers and CW-1 workers. At least 24 months work related experience with Associate Degree. Salary $12.41/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction all required by CNMI and Federal Law. From Mon-Fri. 36hr/week/7 hr /day.

Dept Hardware Sale Supervisor
Qualification Requirement: Good in customer service, marketing expertise, good in computer e.g data base, rock solid system, excel, word, and other computer program, Familiar in hardware product, knowledge of business and management principle, leadership, production methods, Service oriented, Physically fit, Can able to drive. Knowledge in inventory system. Salary: $8.55-9.20/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction: All required by CNMI and Federal Law. Frm: Mon-Sun 7 hrs a day(flexible time and day). 36 hrs /week.

Electrician
Qualification Requirements: At least 24 months work related experience with Associate Degree. Knowledge in all aspect of electrical .eg. installation, plan, lay out, repair, trouble shooting, inspect electrical or electronics system for defects. Good in computer system, data base, Microsoft excel, word, peach tree system, drafting. Knowledge in sales and marketing of electrical product. Good in customer service, with electrical license and diploma and with driver license.

Applicant may submit application to 2nd flr Yumul bldg. Mnsgr Guerrero Rd Chalan Kiya Saipan MP 96950 or email to ycocorporationlabor@yahoo.com. From Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Tel (670)233-3112/3.

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Must-see NBA games for 2019-20 season

The NBA released its regular-season schedule on Monday, so naturally it's already time to scan the slate and pencil in those must-watch games. There are plenty of revenge matchups, new faces in new places, contenders looking to stay atop the power structure and upstarts looking to make some noise.

significant changes

The schedule is a little bit easier on players.

Fans might be catching a break—and some more sleep—as well.

The schedule is featuring another dip in back-to-back games for teams and a major change in the number of nationally televised games starting at 10:30 p.m. on the East coast. Golden State and the Los Angeles Lakers will start several games a half-hour earlier than usual, while broadcasters ESPN and Turner are going to earlier start times on many of their midweek doubleheader nights.

Such a change has been on NBA Commissioner Adam Silver's mind for some time, especially since roughly half of the nation's television homes are in the East time zone—but now, a number of the league's biggest stars play on the West coast.

Here are 10 can't-miss games for the 2019-20 NBA season.

AP
Kawhi Leonard speaks during a press conference in Los Angeles, Wednesday, July 24, 2019.

Portland at Golden State, Nov. 4 at 10:30 (NBA TV)

Yes, there will be no Kevin Durant or Klay Thompson, but the rematch of last season's Western Conference finals still should be fascinating. After Portland had a solid offseason with additions like Pau Gasol and Hassan Whiteside, it could be a good barometer of where the Trail Blazers stand in the West.

Los Angeles Clippers at Houston, Nov. 13 at 7:30 (ESPN)

There were reports of discontent between Paul George and Russell Westbrook while both were in OKC. They each moved on and are now on legitimate Western Conference contenders. Early in the year, they'll get to show off their new teams and face off against each other. Things could get feisty.

Brooklyn at Boston, Nov. 27 at 7 (ESPN)

These two teams actually play twice in three nights, with a rematch coming at Barclays Center on Nov. 29, but this will be the first time Kyrie Irving returns to Boston to face off against his former team. It's a shame Durant will be out with his Achilles injury, but Boston's addition of Kemba Walker adds a little more sizzle to this one.

Los Angeles Lakers at New Orleans, Nov. 27 at 9:30 (ESPN)

The end of the Anthony Davis era in New Orleans was tense and many Pelicans fans feel the star big man skipped town without delivering. Add that LeBron James and No. 1 overall pick Zion Williamson will also be on the court (and will likely match up against each other), and this already-intriguing game gets even better. Oh, and Lonzo Ball, Josh Hart and Brandon Ingram get to face their old team, too.

Los Angeles Clippers at Toronto, Dec. 11 at 7 (ESPN)

Kawhi Leonard was a one-and-done in Toronto, but he did deliver a championship. That means his welcome back to #WeTheNorth territory should be friendly. But you can bet Leonard will want to show he made the right decision—and the Raptors will want to show that they're just fine without him.

Los Angeles Clippers at Los Angeles Lakers, Dec. 25 at 8 (ABC)

These two teams will have already played (they face off on opening night), but the fact that this a Christmas Day matchup elevates the battle. It doesn't get much better than this.

Houston at Oklahoma City, Jan. 9 at 9:30 (TNT)

There's nothing quite like a spicy revenge game, and this one has it multiplied by two. Westbrook returns to OKC for his first game against the Thunder after he was traded to the Rockets, and Chris Paul—the player whom Westbrook replaced – gets to see his old teammates. Add in those reports of tension between Paul and James Harden … just make sure to tune in.

Milwaukee at Denver, March 9 at 9 (NBA TV)

This could very well be an NBA Finals preview, and it showcases two of the most versatile and gifted players in the league in Giannis Antetokounmpo and Nikola Jokic. These two teams will play only twice, with the other matchup coming in late January.

Milwaukee at Philadelphia, April 7 at 7:30 (TNT)

These two teams will have faced off three times in earlier matchups, but both figure to be near the top of the East all season. So with huge seeding implications potentially on the line to kick off the last week of the regular season, this might end up being one of the most important games of the year.

Golden State at Los Angeles Lakers, April 9 at 10:30 (TNT)

After missing out on the playoffs last year for the first time since 2005, James will be looking to close the season strong. And there's a chance Thompson will be back from his torn ACL by this point, so this could be one of those late-season games that feels like the playoffs.

Lowry withdraws from US World Cup team

Kyle Lowry of the NBA champion Toronto Raptors has withdrawn from the pool of candidates USA Basketball is considering to take to the FIBA World Cup later this month.

Lowry said his surgically repaired thumb isn't ready to allow him to participate in on-court workouts. He had surgery last month to repair a torn tendon that dogged him during the NBA playoffs, and was hopeful of being on the floor as early as Tuesday when the Americans resume practice in El Segundo, California.

But after meeting with his surgeon on Monday, Lowry apparently realized he wasn't going to be able to play.

"I was hoping to be available in time to help my country in their quest for gold in this upcoming tournament," Lowry wrote on Instagram. "I love playing for USAB but I have to sit this one out and support the team from home."

Lowry's decision means 15 players are still in the running for 12 spots — and one of those 15, Boston guard Marcus Smart, missed much of last week's camp in Las Vegas with a calf injury. It is possible that USA Basketball could add to the player pool before making any final decisions on the World Cup roster, though the Americans were also prepared if Lowry was not cleared to play.

"We have guys who can play different positions, guys with character, versatility and athleticism," USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo said last week in Las Vegas, when the Americans started paring down the roster. "And we think it's a hungry group."

Lowry has about six weeks now to get ready for Raptors camp. He said he expects the Americans to win the World Cup for an unprecedented third consecutive time.

"At the end of the day I believe the men that are playing will be great and will win the gold for our country," Lowry wrote.

Below is the team's updated roster:

Guards: De'Aaron Fox, Sacramento; Joe Harris, Brooklyn; Donovan Mitchell, Utah; Marcus Smart, Boston; Kemba Walker, Boston; Derrick White, San Antonio.

Forwards: Harrison Barnes, Sacramento; Jaylen Brown, Boston; Kyle Kuzma, L.A. Lakers; Khris Middleton, Milwaukee; Jayson Tatum, Boston; P.J. Tucker, Houston.

Centers: Brook Lopez, Milwaukee; Mason Plumlee, Denver; Myles Turner, Indiana.

The U.S. will practice Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Lakers' training facility. The Americans face Spain in an exhibition game on Friday in Anaheim, California, and leave for more training and exhibitions in Australia on Saturday.

Hachimura scores 35 points in Japan's win

In Chiba, first-round NBA draft pick Rui Hachimura scored 35 points to lead Japan to a 99-89 win over New Zealand in World Cup warm-up game at Port Chiba Arena.

Hachimura became the first player from Japan to be chosen in the first round of the NBA draft, taken with the No. 9 overall pick by the rebuilding Washington Wizards in June.

The former Gonzaga University star played in the NBA's Summer League for the Wizards but now will take up national duties for Japan at the World Cup and for other warm-up games, including New Zealand again on Wednesday.

"We got off to a good start and went from there ... I want to lead this team," Hachimura said after Monday's game. "I'm just happy to be back in Japan after a while for these friendly games."

The 21-year-old from Toyama Prefecture scored 22 points in the first half and impressed Detroit Pistons head coach Dwane Casey.

"I think he's going to be a heck of a player, the NBA is a physical game, a tough game. He's got a great body for the NBA," Casey, who is in Japan for a coaching clinic and was at the game as a spectator, told Kyodo News.

"I see Rui ... developing his game to move out to the 3-point line. Because that's where the NBA is. Great kid, great work ethic."

Japan played without Memphis Grizzlies' forward Yuta Watanabe, who has an ankle injury.

Japan opens its World Cup competition against Turkey on Sept. 1 in Shanghai and then takes on Czech Republic and the United States. The top two teams in the group advance to the second round.

Torres lifts Yankees to doubleheader sweep

NEW YORK (AP)—Gleyber Torres walked to the plate in the eighth inning with runners on first and second, two outs and the Yankees ahead by five runs.

Baltimore called for an intentional walk, and who could blame the Orioles?

Torres hit three of New York's seven home runs in an 8-5, 11-8 doubleheader sweep Monday, including three-run drives in the fifth and sixth innings of the night game. Torres has 13 of New York's record 59 long balls against Baltimore this season, a big reason the Yankees have 14 consecutive wins versus the Orioles.

"I take all the opportunities they give and then just do damage," Torres said.

Gio Urshela had six hits in the twinbill, including a 461-foot homer in the opener, and raised his average to .332 with 18 homers and 63 RBIs.

AL East-leading New York has five doubleheader sweeps to go along with one split. The Yankees improved to 15-2 against Baltimore with two games left, winning 12 of their past 14 overall and moving a season-high 38 games over .500 at 79-41.

Torres set a big league record with his fifth multi-homer game against a team in a season, breaking a tie with Ralph Kiner (1947), Gus Zernial (1951) and Roy Sievers (1955). His 26 homers are two more than his total as a rookie last year, and the 13 against Baltimore matched Roger Maris in 1961 against Cleveland for the second-most against one team in a season for the Yankees, one behind Lou Gehrig's total in 1936 versus Cleveland.

"I just kind of had enough," Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said of the walk, which was followed by Brett Gardner's groundout. "We're making him look like a first-ballot Hall of Famer."

Indians 6, Red Sox 5

In Cleveland, Carlos Santana homered leading off the ninth inning to send the Indians to a win over the fast-fading Boston Red Sox and back into first-place in the AL Central.

After the Red Sox tied it in the top of the inning, Santana connected on a 2-2 pitch from Marcus Walden (7-2), driving it barely over the wall in left to give the Indians their biggest win this season.

The Indians moved past the idle Minnesota Twins and are alone in first for the first time since April 19.

José Ramírez hit a three-run homer and Franmil Reyes had a two-run shot as the Indians improved to a MLB-best 43-17 since June 4, when they trailed the Twins by 10 ½ games.

Down 5-1 after three innings, the Red Sox chipped away and finally tied it in the ninth on a two-out double by Xander Bogaerts off Indians closer Brad Hand (6-3).

But Santana bailed him out and added a new chapter to his own comeback season with Cleveland.

J.D. Martinez and Jackie Bradley Jr. homered, but Boston lost for the 12th time in 15 games. The defending World Series champions came in trailing the New York Yankees by 16 games in the AL East and 7 ½ back in the wild-card race.

Nationals 7, Reds 6

In Washington, Trea Turner and Matt Adams homered, Erick Fedde pitched well after allowing a solo shot on the game's first pitch and the depleted Nationals held on to edge Cincinnati.

Washington led 7-2 but blew most of that advantage before Sean Doolittle got his 27th save in 32 chances. He entered in the ninth with a 7-4 lead, but the struggling lefty closer's first pitch of the evening became Phillip Ervin's pinch-hit homer. The next batter singled, and came around on Joey Votto's two-out double off the wall in left. Doolittle finally ended things on Josh VanMeter's foul pop to third baseman Anthony Rendon.

the Nationals opened a six-game homestand without three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer, left fielder Juan Soto or first baseman Ryan Zimmerman —all injured—while second baseman Brian Dozier was ill and limited to pinch-hitting duty.

Washington trailed quickly as Jesse Winker drove a sinker from Fedde to left for his 16th homer—and third leading off a game this season.

Fedde (3-2) settled down and ended up going six innings, giving up two runs and six hits.

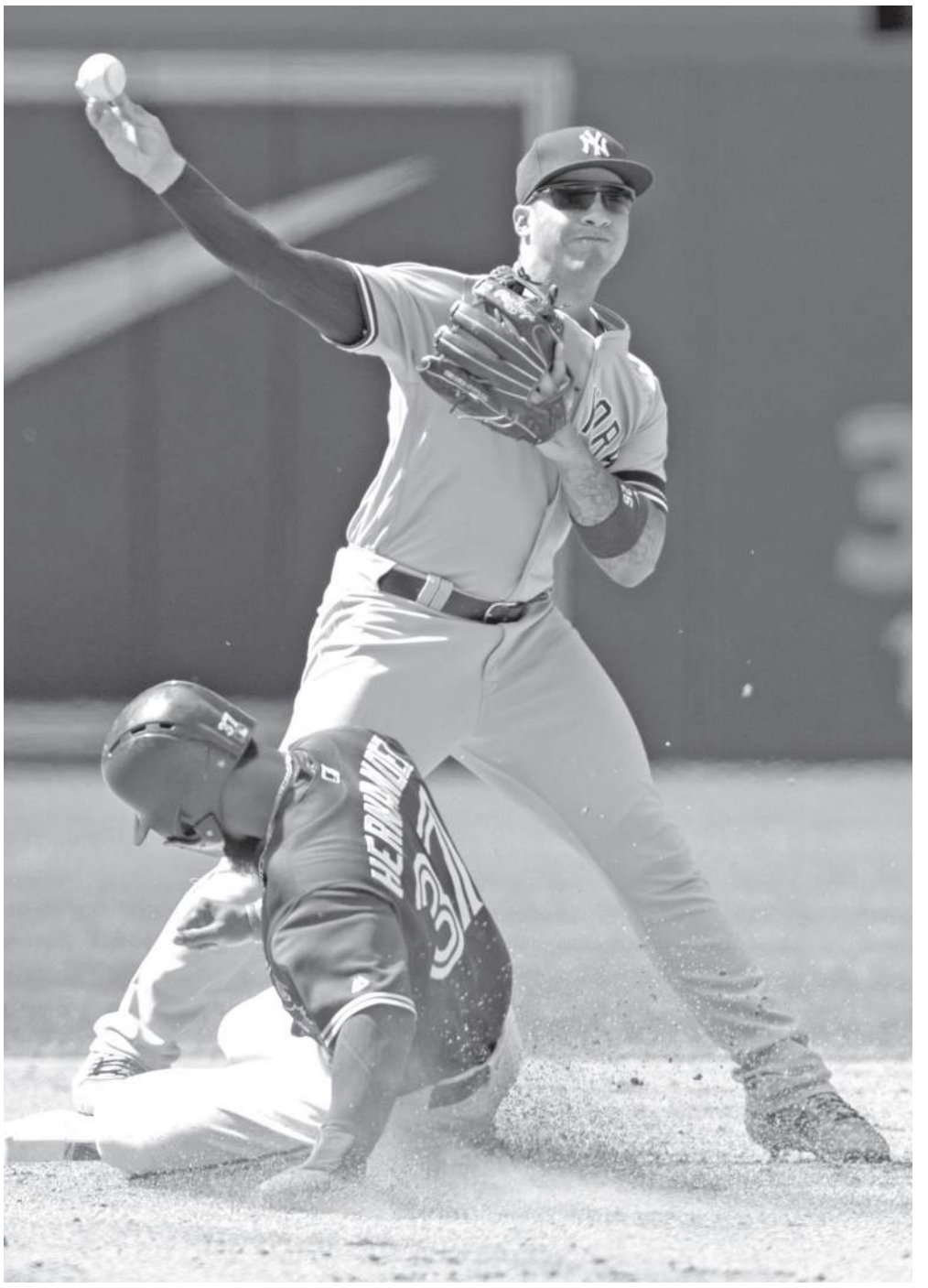
Anthony DeSclafani (7-7) took the loss.

Blue Jays 19, Rangers 4

In Toronto, Brandon Drury hit his first career grand slam, Justin Smoak had a two-run homer among his three extra-base hits, and the Blue Jays routed Texas.

Bo Bichette had the first four-hit game of his career and Randal Grichuk had three hits, including a solo homer, as the Blue Jays won for the 10th time in 15 games.

Drury had five RBI, while Smoak and Grichuk each had four. Danny Jansen had a two-run homer.



AP

Toronto Blue Jays Teoscar Hernandez is forced out at second base as New York Yankees shortstop Gleyber Torres turns the double play in the eighth inning of their American League baseball game in Toronto, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019.

Toronto scored eight runs in the fourth, its biggest inning since an eight-run outburst against Seattle on Sept. 20, 2016.

Nomar Mazara, Willie Calhoun and Rougned Odor hit solo home runs but Texas lost for the fifth time in six games.

Ariel Jurado (6-8) allowed career-highs of eight runs and 11 hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Brock Stewart (2-0) pitched 5 1-3 innings, allowing three runs and five hits.

Diamondbacks 8, Rockies 6

In Denver, Jake Lamb, Nick Ahmed and Carson Kelly homered during a four-run sixth inning and Arizona beat Colorado.

Over the course of 13 pitches, Arizona went from trailing 6-3 to leading 7-6. Lamb started the comeback with a solo shot off reliever Jake McGee. Ahmed later hit a two-run homer and Kelly followed with a solo shot off Chad Bettis (1-6).

It was the Diamondbacks' 27th comeback win of the season and keeps them in the thick of the wild-card chase.

Merrill Kelly (8-12) allowed four of his six runs in the first inning as he earned his first victory since June 12. Archie Bradley tossed a 1-2-3 ninth for his fourth save.

Trevor Story had two doubles and a solo homer for a Rockies squad that's gone 13-32 since June 21.

Pirates 10, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Mitch Keller earned his first major league victory, Jacob Stallings had a homer and a two-run double, and Pittsburgh snapped its eight-game losing streak with a victory over Los Angeles.

Kevin Newman, Josh Bell and Bryan Reynolds also homered for the Pirates, who won for just the third time in 21 games and only the fifth time since the All-Star break. Pittsburgh jumped to an early 6-0 lead on Jose Suarez (2-4) and the road-weary Angels, who played in Boston on Sunday.

Keller (1-1) came up from the minors to make his fourth big league start and yielded five hits, two walks and just one earned run over five innings, striking out four and pitching out of two late jams.

Rays 10, Padres 4

In San Diego, Avisaíl García had a two-run home run among his three hits and Matt Duffy had four hits and three RBIs for Tampa Bay in its first game in San Diego since 2004.

The Rays won their fourth game in a row overall and their eighth straight on the road.

Joey Lucchesi (7-7) took the loss. He allowed three runs and five hits in 4 2/3 innings, struck out six and walked three.

San Diego backup second baseman Ian Kinsler pitched the ninth, allowing a single, walking two and hitting a batter, but not allowing a run. He was backed by a double play started by rookie shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. Kinsler hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth.

Sharapova faces Barty in Cincinnati Masters

OHIO0—Maria Sharapova overpowered Alison Riske, 6-3, 7-6(4), at the Cincinnati Masters on Monday to set up a tantalizing second-round battle with world number two Ash Barty, who defeated the Russian at this year's Australian Open.

Sharapova struggled at times with her accuracy but unleashed some massive serves and played stout defence at key moments on her return to the tournament after a five year absence.

Fellow tournament wild card Riske looked poised to send the match to a third set when she was serving on 5-3 and 15-0 in the second set but Sharapova upped her game to force a tiebreaker.

Former world number one and five-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova prevailed on her fourth match point to set up the meeting with top seeded Barty.

Barty defeated Sharapova in the fourth round of the Australian Open in January and both will be looking to sharpen their games ahead of the U.S. Open later this month.

Another former world number one, Caroline Wozniacki, fell to rising Ukrainian teenager Dayana Yastremska, 6-4, 6-4, under the lights to close out the day's action.

The unseeded Dane had her opportunities but converted just four of her 15 break point chances against Yastremska, who was making her Cincinnati debut.

Johanna Konta suffered her second straight first-round exit at a tournament as she fell, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, to qualifier Rebecca Peterson in a marathon first-round match.

The 14th-seeded Konta's biggest weakness was her second serve as the Swede won 62% of those points against the error-prone Briton.

Svetlana Kuznetsova upset 11th seeded Anastasija Sevastova 7-6(3) 6-7(4) 6-4 in their first-round battle to set up a second round clash with Yastremska.

Meanwhile, Venus Williams moved through the first round when she defeated compatriot Lauren Davis in straight sets earlier in the day, 7-5, 6-2.

Brown's helmet appeal with NFL denied

Oakland Raiders wide receiver Antonio Brown will need a new helmet, after all.

Brown had his grievance against the NFL rejected by an arbitrator, two people familiar with the decision said.

On his verified social media accounts, Brown said he disagreed with the decision, but confirmed that he would return to the Raiders after multiple reports emerged last week indicating he had stepped away from the team, in part, because he wanted to use his old helmet.

"While I disagree with the arbitrator's decision, I'm working on getting back to full health and looking forward to rejoining my teammates on the field," Brown wrote in a message posted to his verified social media accounts. "I'm excited about this season appreciate all the concerns about my feet!" #AlwaysAFight #Represent #itsbiggerthanme"

The decision means Brown will need to switch to a more modern model approved by the league and the NFL Players Association.

Brown was seeking permission to wear the helmet he has worn his entire career, a model that has been banned for use for the 2019 season and beyond. The NFL has a longstanding policy that prohibits players from wearing helmets that aren't certified by the National Operating Commission on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE).

AP

An arbitrator has ruled against Oakland Raiders wide receiver Antonio Brown regarding his grievance to wear his old helmet.

Because the model Brown sought to wear, a Schutt AiR Advantage, is more than 10 years old, NOCSAE will not certify it.

Earlier on Monday, NFL vice president of communications Brian McCarthy tweeted, "The player can't practice or play in games with equipment that's not approved. "If he doesn't play or practice he is in breach of his contract and doesn't get paid."

NFL Network reported on Friday that Brown tried to sneak his old helmet onto the practice field multiple times, going as far as repainting the helmet to colors that were similar to but exactly matching those of the Raiders. The report also said that Raiders equipment managers tried to fit Brown with an approved model, but the receiver rejected their advice and eventually stormed off in protest.

The Raiders acquired Brown in a trade after he spent nine years in Pittsburgh in which he earned four all-pro selections and seven Pro Bowl nods.

Brady: No choice

Tom Brady is having an easier time adjusting to the new helmet rules mandated by the NFL than Brown. That doesn't mean he likes it, though.

On Boston radio station WEEI's "The Greg Hill Show" on Monday, the New England Patriots quarterback said finding a comfortable lid has been a work in progress.

"I've been experimenting with a couple different ones, and I don't really love the one that I'm in, but I don't really have much of a choice," Brady said. "So I'm just trying to do the best I can to work with it."

Brady was one of 32 players, along with Brown and Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who needed to change their helmet this offseason. In April, the league and the NFL Players' Association jointly announced they were banning 11 different models in an effort to improve player safety. Brady previously used the Riddell VSR-4 model, per ESPN.

"You get used to the same helmet for a long period of time," Brady told the show. "My last helmet, I wore it the last four Super Bowls. So it was a pretty great helmet for me. I hated to put it on the shelf."

Atkins Kroll Saipan backs MIBL

Atkins Kroll Saipan has announced its sponsorship of the Marianas International Basketball League.

Atkins Kroll will host MIBL's press conference in its San Jose showroom today at 5pm. The MIBL in its inaugural season will tender a 10-team league. Clint Albert, MIBL commissioner, and Clark Boswell, Atkins Kroll vice president and general manager, will discuss the league's member teams, game venues and schedules, corporate sponsors, and playoffs.

"Atkins Kroll is pleased to become a sponsor of this community recreational league. We want to be part of organized sports that promotes competition, sportsmanship, and overall healthy living on Saipan," said Boswell.

"We are not only the MIBL's corporate sponsor, but AK will also field a team in the league. We are glad that the organization will help restore many of the basketball facilities that were destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu so other groups and school youths can play on these courts," added Boswell.

Other sponsors and teams included are Aqua Resort Club, IT&E, Saipan Vegas, Bridge Capital, Caravans, TanHoldings, MSV, Mystique Snacks & BBQ, and The Game Athletics. ***(PR)***

TSUNAMI

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ming Championships in April (the host island has yet to be announced). Tsunami Saipan collected 39 gold medals from the inaugural MSC hosted at the National Swimming Pool in Palau in April this year. The club had 10 members making it to Team CNMI and all of them won medals.

Isaiah Aleksenko led Tsunami Saipan's strong showing in in Palau after getting 13 gold medals (including relay races) in the U12 age group, while Ashley Dangol, bagged 12 gold medals (including relay).

Aleksenko just returned from a three-week training camp in Guam and is expected to lead Tsunami Saipan in the MSC, while Ashley and her brother, Aasish are now in California and doing well in swim meets in their new home.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isaiah Aleksenko is back on Saipan after a three-week training camp in Guam.

"We thanked coach Iijima and Tsunami Guam for helping Isaiah during his training camp," Kimura said

Meanwhile, despite losing the Dangol siblings, Kimura is confident that they will still perform well in off-island competitions because they have other veteran swimmers and new strong ones this season.

Junh Tenorio and Aika Watanabe are among the club's senior members and both represented the CNMI in the XVI Pacific Games in Samoa and the 2019 FINA World Championships in South Korea. They gave good account of themselves in the two regional competitions despite limited preparations in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu and the absence of the 50-meter pool—the standard used in races in Samoa and South Korea.

TOC

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golfers Ryan Kim, J.J. Atalig, Fen Chun, and Franco Santos.

Meanwhile, Babauta and DFS Saipan vice president for store operations Milan Rabold, who joined Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in presenting awards to the flight winners, thanked all the players, sponsors, and volunteers of this year's TOC and for supporting the event's causes. Part of the proceeds from the competition will be used for beautification projects on Saipan and the recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu.

CAROL

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New Zealand.s Abby Mason, 6-0, 6-3.

At the lower part of the draw, the quarterfinalists were unranked Saoirse Breen of Fiji and New Zealand's Vivian Yang and No. 2 Natasha Russell and No. 7 Amy Stevens of Australia. Stevens made it to the Round of 8 after beating fellow Aussie Elena Micic, 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-0, while Breen advanced following an upset over No. 4 Roopa Bains, also from Australia, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 7-6 (3). Yang also stunned No. 8 Charlotte Kempenaers-Pocz of Australia, 6-4, 6-3, while Russell booted out New Zealand's Ana Tamanika, 7-5, 6-4.

Meanwhile, the doubles event is also down to eight pairs with Lee and her partner, Meeka Marshall of Australia, among the quarterfinalists at the bottom half of the draw.

Lee and Marshall marched into the Round of 8 after defeating Otway and Tamanika in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4. Next up for Lee and Marshall are the unseeded duo of Kempenaers-Pocz and Elena Micic, who reached the quarterfinals following a 6-2, 6-0 triumph against Tahiti's Vaiani Dusserre-Valleaux and Tupuola.

If Lee and Marshall get through Micic and Kempenaers-Pocz, they will have a chance to play for a finals berth against the winner in the other quarterfinal match at the lower half of the draw—Iaconi and Zali Morris of Australia versus Aulia and Yang. Iaconi and Morris made it to the quarterfinals after laboring through 2-6, 7-5, 10-5 win against Mason and Sasga Nelson, while Aulia and Yang also needed an extended game to stun the second seeded pair of Talia Gibson and Repac, 4-6, 7-5, 10-8.

At the top half of the draw, No. 1 seed Bains and Russell led the quarterfinal cast, which also includes the New Caledonia duo of Ipunesso and Carolann Delaunay, Australia's Stevens and Walker, and Aimee Brown and Sasha Situe, also from the Land Down Under.

Meanwhile, Sean Lee and Robbie Schorr bowed out of the doubles event of the Grade 2 tournament.

Australia's Casey Hoole and Edward Vo, who are the No. 7 seed in the main draw, eliminated the unseeded Lee and Schorr, 6-1, 6-1, to barge into the quarterfinals against No. 1 Cihan Akay and Nikita Volonski.

In singles play last Monday, Schorr engaged Vo in a three-set match that the Aussie won, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. Lee, on the other hand, was dominated by No. 1 seed Chen Dong of Australia, 6-0, 6-0. Both Schorr and Lee dropped to the consolation draw with the former going up against a qualifier and the latter battling Rahul Desai.

2019 East Asian Football Federation U15 Girls Festival

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The CNMI Girls U15 National Team players celebrate after Kaithlyn Chavez (10) scored in their game against Guam in the 2019 East Asian Football Federation U15 Girls Festival at the Mokpo International Football Training Center in South Korea last week.

The CNMI's Jannah Casarino, second left, battles China's Zhang Zimei for possession.

The CNMI's Nathanette Blas, right, dribbles in front of Guam defender Anna Jones.

The CNMI's Julianne Hall, right, nudges Chinese-Taipei's Hsiao-Chuan Yang to get to the ball.

The CNMI's Christina Atalig, center, pushes the ball forward during their game against Hong Kong.

The CNMI's Pia Ngewakl, left, steps into the play to steal the ball from Mongolia's Namuun Gankhuyag.

CNMI players pose for a photo during the closing ceremony of the festival.

CNMI players participate in a pre-game ceremony before battling Hong Kong.

Must-see NBA games for 2019-20 season

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Torres lifts Yankees to doubleheader sweep

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Carol reaches quarterfinals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee swept her pair of matches in the 2019 Oceania Closed Junior Championships yesterday to remain in contention for the singles and doubles titles of the Junior ITF Word Tour event.

Lee first played in the singles division at the International Tennis Federation Regional Training Center in Lautoka, Fiji and topped New Zealand's Jade Otway, 6-3, 6-4, to advance to the quarterfinals. The Kiwi earned the right to challenge the No. 1 seed Lee after slipping past Australia's Shanelle Iaconi, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, in their first round match last Monday.

After eliminating Otway, Lee will face No. 5 seed Lara Walker of Australia for a spot in the semifinals. Walker moved into the Round of 8 after ousting fellow Aussie Catherine Aulia, 7-5, 7-6 (4) and New Caledonia' Clara Cwajgenbaum, 6-3, 6-2. Walker will square off against Lee on Court 2 of the RTC with the winner facing the victor of the other quarterfinal pairing in the upper half of the draw—No. 3 Talia Gibson and No. 6 Mia Repac. The all-Australian duel was set up after Gibson eliminated Samoa's Roselyn Tupuola, 6-1, 6-0, and New Caledonia's Leylany Ipunesso and Repac downed compatriot Leanna Serna, 6-4, 6-1, and

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Carol Lee, seen here in the Saipan-hosted Junior ITF World Tour event last year, is in the quarterfinals of both the singles and doubles divisions of the 2019 Oceania Closed Junior Championships in Fiji.

TOC winners get spots in Guam tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first place winners in all eight flights in the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions will gain entry to the 17th Annual Tourism Cup Championship Golf Tournament in Guam.

Ben Babauta, tournament chair of TOC, said they will pay for the entry fees of the winning golfers in the Tourism Cup, which will be held in November this year. If the flight champion can't make it to the Guam tournament, the runner-up could take the spot, while the third place may also compete if the Top 2 players decide not to join the off-island competition.

Henry Liang won the A Flight, while Ned Norita and Freddy Salavaria were the second and third placers. Joel Hocog was the B Flight first finisher and was followed by Alex Sablan and Edward Tenorio, while Surong Kim, J.J. Concepcion, and Patrick George were the Top 3 finishers in C Flight.

Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho led the winners in Seniors, beating John Lee and Daryl Poe, while Nick Sablan topped the Super Seniors, edging Victor Borja and Tony Satur. Chang Hee Yoo and Mio Kim were the champions in the Ladies Low Gross and Net divisions of the tournament held over the weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Guam's Louie Sunga joined the winners list after ruling the Championship Flight, defeating Saipan

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ryan Kim watches his ball roll to the cup during the second and final round of the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions last Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers stay afloat

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members do drills during their training session at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan pool early this month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's been nearly a year since the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool shut down, but Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan is not giving up, as its members continue to train and get ready for competitions.

Head coach Hiro Kimura said they will start their new season on Sept. 1 and will join meets and training camps in Guam, Japan, and possibly South Korea.

"We plan to go Guam next month. It is a SC (short course) meet but it's good for warming-up at the beginning of the season," said Kimura, who conducts training sessions at the 25-meter pool at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Guam's first short course meet is scheduled for Sept. 7 at the Hagatna Swimming Pool and the Guam Swimming Federation has four more SC events (25m pool), while the long course (50m) season will begin in January and will feature six competitions.

Besides the meets in Guam, Tsunami Saipan swimmers are also planning to join the 2nd Annual Micronesian Swim-

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